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The image shows the interior of a Katahdin Cedar Log Home. The room features a high, vaulted ceiling with exposed wooden log beams and rafters. The walls are also made of horizontal wooden planks. In the foreground, there are two large, dark-colored plaid armchairs facing each other, with a dark wooden coffee table between them. In the background, a dining area is visible with a round wooden table and several wooden chairs. Large windows in the background offer a view of green trees outside. A sign on the wall reads "Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much".

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Relax

Behind every beautiful Katahdin Cedar Log Home is our commitment to a greener tomorrow for both of us. What that means to you is energy efficiency, green manufacturing practices, quality and beauty from the ground up.



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departments

- 10 Editor's Note**
Choose logs for good health.
- 11 Mailbox**
- 12 Ask the Editors & Log On**
Attaching half-logs to walls.
- 13 Media**
Arkansas cabin architecture.
- 14 The 411**
All about metal roofs.
- 16 Savvy Builder**
Guide to log-home roofing.
- 22 Cabin Fever**
America's favorite cabin cafes.
- 24 Great Places**
Branson's main attraction.
- 26 Money Matters**
Straight talk about financing.
- 28 Home Style**
Furnishing a master suite.
- 77 Resources**
Find out where to find out.
- 88 The Life**
Why we love log homes.

32 40 Years in the Making

An Illinois couple's first date inspires their log-home dream.

Story by Teresa L. Wolff

40 They Did It Their Way

A couple's vision and frugality make their North Carolina home affordable.

Story by Roland Sweet

48 What's Up Under Foot

Fashionable floors invite, "tread on me."

By Leah Gross and Linda Jovanovich

54 Their Own Private Idaho

A lakeside home becomes a couple's choice for their home away from home.

Story by Teresa L. Wolff

Cover Guide

An efficient yet elegant kitchen highlights an Illinois home. Photo by Roger Wade. To see more of this home, turn to page 32.



- Straight Talk About Financing,** pg. 26
- Flooring Options,** pg. 48
- Roundup of Popular Plans,** pg. 68
- Adding Style to Your Master Suite,** pg. 28
- America's Log-Cabin Cafes,** pg. 22
- Directory of Builder-Dealers,** pg. 80

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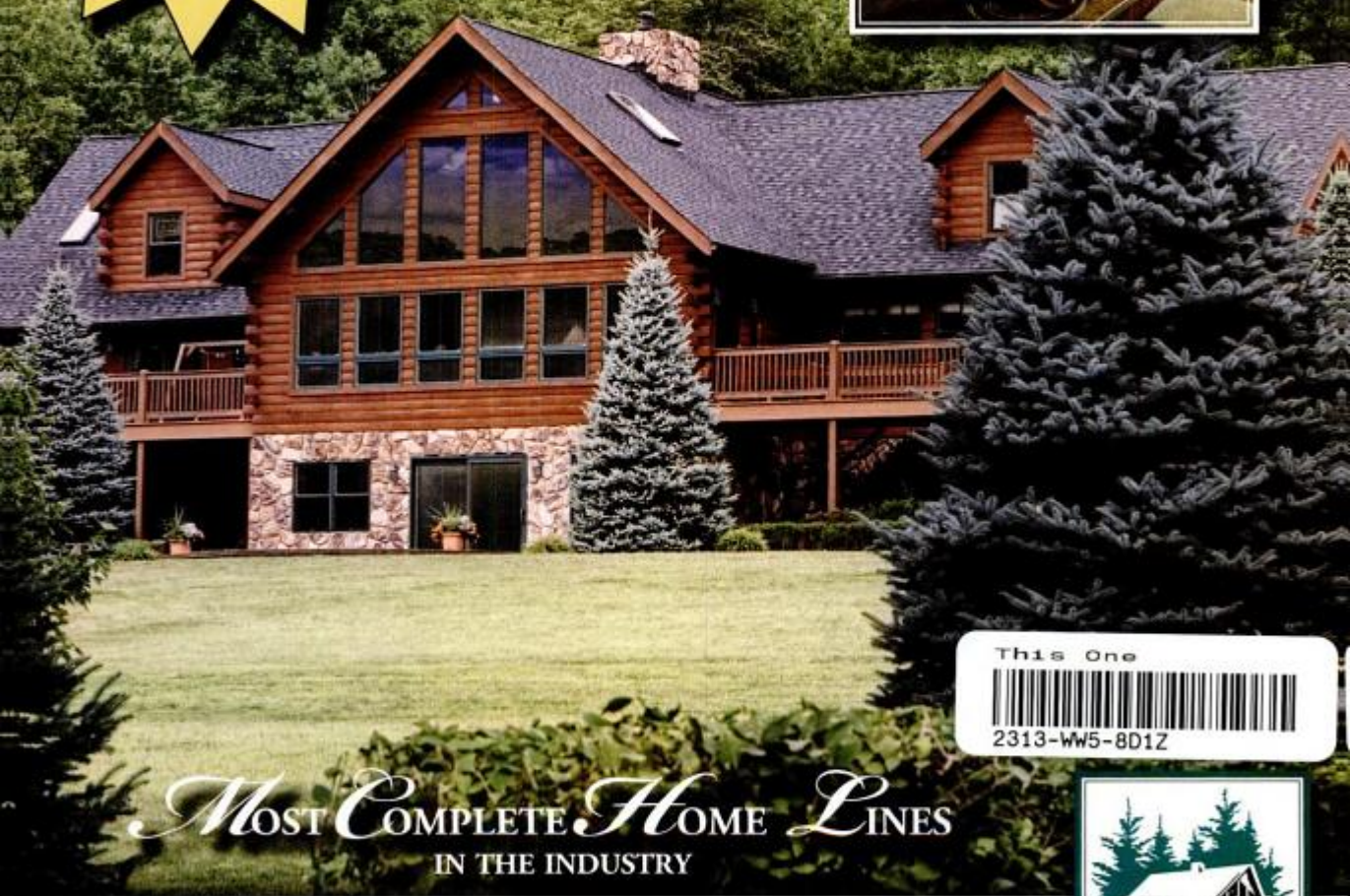
- 64 Advertising Guide**
- 65 Regional Resource Guide**
- 68 Focus on Floor Plans**
- 78 Handcrafters' Gallery**
- 80 Builder/Dealer Marketplace**
- 85 Suppliers' Marketplace**

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Your Home, From Start to Finish

The following sample schedule will help you to learn the sequence of events and the people involved in each stage of building a log home.

Although every log home is as unique as the people who own it, most are built using the same basic steps and timelines. The following sample schedule will help you to learn the sequence of events and the people involved in each stage of the complete representative or dealer who choose to work with you will also be listed. This information will complete the general construction tasks. The information "best" stands for log home company representative or dealer.

Activity	Comments
1. Construction Schedule	
Due notice of start when applicable	General
• Building permit office	
• Insurance agent	
• Planning board, community association	
• Financial institution	
• Individual subcontractors	
2. Site Clearing and Excavation	
Call excavator or contractor to perform work schedule	General
Call or grade website road or driveway	Excavation
Install curbs, spread crushed stone, etc.	Excavation
Clear building site and material storage area	Excavation

ARE YOU ON SCHEDULE?

Although log homes are as unique as the people who own them, most are built using the same basic steps and timelines. A sample schedule will help you to learn the sequence of events and the people involved in each stage.

loghome.com/building-timeline/articles/3071

BUILD AN AFFORDABLE CABIN

Log-cabin dreams may seem financially out of reach, but by honoring the humble origins of this structure, you may find that a rustic retreat is well within your means. Read the three basic steps to success and other tips to make your cabin fit your budget.

loghome.com/affordable-cabin-design/articles/3068

SHOW US (AND EVERYONE) YOUR HOME

Or the land you hope to build it on. There's only one place to post your photos and stories about your log home. That's the Log Home Neighborhood, the exclusive community of log-home enthusiasts who enjoy sharing experiences, asking questions and providing answers to spare you trial and error. Meet your log-home neighbors today.

loghomeu.com

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOME

How do you lay out the rooms in your log home? It's easier than you think. Start by looking at how other log-home owners have solved space problems. Our online floor plan library has hundreds of the latest plans, searchable by size, company name, number of bedrooms, number of baths or number of levels. You'll be linked to not only a floor plan, but also a photo or rendering of the home built from that plan and a list of its finer points.

loghome.com/floorplans

GET IN THE KNOW

Our weekly newsletter contains log links to pictures, floor plans and must-read articles that can save you time and money when it comes to planning, buying and building your dream home. It's free just by signing up.

loghome.p0.com/access.jsp?pubCode=BJ

IT'S SHOWTIME

The Log & Timber Show is a three-day event that brings together the leading log-home and timber-frame companies, along with suppliers and furniture dealers from all over. Hourly workshops explain the ins and outs of



moving from wanting a custom log home to owning one by making the choices that are right for you. Get details for the show nearest you.

thelogandtimberhomeshow.com/shows

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Healthy Choice

HAVE YOU EVER MENTIONED feeling sick to a doctor, then have the doc tell you, "Take two logs and call me in the morning?" Maybe more doctors should start giving patients that very advice. No joke.

The medical profession hasn't actually endorsed log homes as part of a healthy lifestyle, although many doctors own log homes. But log homes won't make you sick.

We all read plenty today about sick-building syndrome, indoor allergies, asthma and related respiratory ailments, plus rampant house mold. Folks who live in log homes never complain. About the only thing they run even the slightest risk of catching is a stray splinter.

Everyone knows people with allergies benefit from wood floors, particularly if their pets shed. If floors, then why not wood walls and wood ceilings, too? In fact, the more wood, the healthier your home will be, just by taking the place of non-wood building materials.

Like drywall. Who hasn't said they want some of that in their log home? Well, whoa. In November, the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission broke the news that there is a "strong association" between gypsum-based drywall from China and harmful levels of hydrogen sulfide in the indoor air. Tests also found elevated levels of formaldehyde. The result, the CPSC said, is occupants of homes with Chinese drywall complaining of rotten-egg smells, irritated eyes, asthma attacks and headaches. It isn't just Chinese drywall, which flooded the country during the housing boom. The same week, as part of the largest investigation in its history, the CPSC noted that American-made drywall is also causing a sickening, sulfurous stench, corroded pipes and wiring, and ruined TVs and air conditioners. In fact, several lawsuits have been filed against American drywall manufacturers.

By the way, no logs come from China. Only chopsticks.

Another well-known home health hazard is mold festering behind walls. Framed walls, maybe. Behind solid-wood walls, "behind" means the other side.

This isn't to say you can't get sick living in a log home, just that it won't be the logs causing the problem. Even if you avoid drywall and carpeting, other building material or furnishings are likely suspects.

But if you're sensitive to the ingredients of today's stick-built houses, you owe it to your health to consider building a log home. Besides shunning suspect conventional building materials and using non-toxic, stench-free logs instead, you're building from scratch. That means you'll have the satisfaction of knowing every single component, from walls and flooring to light bulbs and tile adhesive. You can also control building conditions, such as making sure that work crews don't smoke inside and immediately outside the new building. Be as persnickety as you feel you need to be. It's your home and your health.

Roland

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Sweat Equity Pays

Janet and I have always loved the mountains, and living in the North Carolina Piedmont made frequent trips to the Blue Ridge and Smoky mountains possible. We have dreamed for years about having our own home in the mountains. As soon as the kids were through college and married, we started making serious plans to make our dream a reality.

Our top choice had always been a log home, but our research was not encouraging, indicating that log homes were more expensive than standard construction. We decided that anything less than a log home would be a disappointment. The best option seemed to be to have someone do a "dry-in" package and us sub out the rest of the construction ourselves.

We settled on a 26-by-36-foot footprint, with the master bedroom on the main floor over a full basement, and two bedrooms, bath and loft on the second floor. We also wanted covered porches on two sides and lots of glass to take advantage of the view.

A salesman that calls on me at work put us in touch with Birchfield Fine Log Homes in Nebo, North Carolina, which mills its own northern white pine logs and has several crews that stack the logs and complete the dry-in. After some hard negotiating over several months, we signed a contract for a complete dry-in for slightly less than \$80,000. This included a 30-year roof and aluminum-clad windows.

We had heard all the horror stories about acting as your own general contractor, so we expected a few bumps along the way. They never occurred. The only things that went over budget were the log stain and finish and the grading.

I have always considered myself to have fairly decent handyman skills, so I decided to tackle most of the interior finish. We used 1-by-8 tongue-and-groove on the walls. Janet had never used power tools, but in just a day or two, she was working

on her own. I also installed the ceramic tile floors, trim work, interior stairs and railings, cabinets and granite tile counter tops. I did use a local contractor to help me with the stairs. We worked almost every weekend and used several weeks' worth of vacation in order to get our certificate of occupancy by Thanksgiving.

Janet used to be a bookkeeper, so she kept meticulous records of every penny we spent. The total project came in at \$176,520, including the land. We just received our tax valuation, which was \$288,000. It looks like we did OK. Where else can you make 40 percent on your investment and still get to enjoy it every weekend?

Don and Janet Pittman
Gastonia, North Carolina

Change of Plans

It all began with a camping trip during a Minnesota fishing opener. I had always loved the Duluth area and spent many summer vacations with my parents there. I bought some lake property, and my future husband and his buddies built me a welcome-to-the-lake outhouse. Our first date was when he delivered the outhouse and we celebrated with a bonfire.

Dan had built a model of our log house when he was in high school for a woodshop project. The house had log corners and tie-in logs but Sheetrock walls in-between. We contacted log-home dealers, but many were leery to build a log home this way. Finally, Minde Log Construction in Two Harbors agreed to tackle the project, and our dream was in action. As we were deciding on furnishings, a plan was made for a trundle and a set of bunk beds in the spare room for when my brother and his family came to visit. Our plans changed when they announced they were having another baby, so the bunk bed went from a double to a triple! The nephews just love them.

Sandy Chesley
Duluth, Minnesota

send us your letters

Do you have a comment or question for us? Would you like to share photos or a story about your log home? Please send your letters to:

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ask the editors

Q: I read about half-log homes that the log halves are attached to a conventionally built, insulated core. How are they attached?

A: Half logs are different from thinner log siding, which can usually be nailed onto walls. Half logs have more bulk and weight, ruling out glue as an affixative. Wisconsin Log Homes, having rejected other attachments as unsatisfactory, uses screws to attach its half-logs to the insulated core wall in its Thermal-Log system. Another company, Expedition Log Homes, favors attaching half logs to 2-by-6 stud framing by toenailing to the stud (through the wall sheathing) with a 5-inch ring-shank spike. "We also use Oly-Log screws to draw each course together," says Expedition's Jan Koepsell. "For example, if we have an 8-inch stack height half log, we use a 10-inch Oly-Log screw, which draws each course tight together and keeps the bottom from pushing out. We toenail into the stud at the top of each course to attach to the house. The 8-inch stack height log will have a 2-inch flat ledge, with the total profile 4 to 5 inches. The 8-inch stack height log is made from a 10-inch diameter beam. The corners on this type of siding would be 10-inch diameter corners. After the siding is attached, the caulk is applied to all seams. To protect the wood, it is important that moisture not be allowed to penetrate between courses. This is true for both full log and half log."



log on

Small Enough for You?

While you're waiting for your real log home, toy with your dreams by ordering one of these log-building sets. Most everyone is familiar with Lincoln Logs, but—surprise!—there are others.

Lincolnlogs.knex.com

Lincoln Logs has been a toy-box staple for 90 years, known for its round wooden blocks notched flat at the corners. John Lloyd Wright, son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, got the idea for them while accompanying his famous father on a trip to Japan to oversee construction of Tokyo's Imperial Hotel. To protect the building against earthquakes, Dad used a technique called "floating cantilever construction," where projecting beams overlap and interlock. Thus: Lincoln Logs, which John Wright began selling to Chicago's Marshall Field & Co. department store in 1918. Lincoln Logs was an instant hit and spawned several imitators.

The logs are still made with wood, which Wright believed to be "the most humanely intimate of all materials." Why the name? Historian Erin K. Cho believes Wright grew up encountering a "barrage" of images and events deifying Abraham Lincoln, among them the 1911 dedication by President Taft of the log cabin where Lincoln was born.

Roytoy.com

One copycat that survives is Roy Toy's Log Building Set, which first appeared in the 1930s. Inventor Roy K. Dennison used flat-sided logs because, his company says, he "grew tired of seeing his grandchildren play with round logs that failed to fit together well and watched with dismay as their cabins shifted and collapsed."

Magiccabin.com

Roy's grandson, Bruce Dennison, carries on his own tradition with hand-cut pine logs stained with non-toxic finish. Magic Cabin's 120-piece set includes interlocking square logs and gable roof.

Lumberjacklogs.com

Lumberjack Logs dwarf their forerunners by using solid maple logs measuring 18 inches, resulting in toy buildings on a grander scale (and higher prices).

media

The Architecture of the Arkansas Ozarks
(Toby Press, \$14.95) by Donald
Harington.

The author, who died in November, created a fanciful place as the setting for 13 of his 15 novels, an Arkansas town called Stay More. The best was this history of Stay More as told through its buildings, three of which were log cabins. Though the place and people are fictional, the architecture is genuine. Here is his



description of the second cabin, built by town founder Jacob Ingledew for the widow Swain: "At first glance it seems similar to the Ingledew cabin, but in the Ozarks, unlike other areas of the country where prepackaged houses come monotonously identical, there were no two dwellings exactly alike. We are impressed with the two most conspicuous differences: the Swain house has a porch, and its timbers are hewed rather than left round. There are other differences, subtle to notice ... a puncheon floor inside, whereas the Ingledew cabin had no floor but earth. (Puncheons are simply split logs with their flat side up, very sturdy, and over the years worn smooth and shiny by the bare feet of many children.)"

Although log cabins share the stage with human characters, and the author offers vivid details of this early American architecture, don't mistake the book for a treatise on log building. It features ribald characters and plenty of guffaws. "I happen to write about hillbillies in Stay More, Ark.," he once told the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, "but my novels are not really hillbilly novels at all."

Donald Harington illustration, from *The Architecture of the Arkansas Ozarks*

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Pop Top

Metal roofs are a favorite with log-home owners.

TRADITIONALISTS POINT TO METAL ROOFS almost as a requirement for a log home. And yet, they're a manufactured material, not a natural one like cedar shakes. Plus, if you've ever driven through farm country, where metal roofs are the standard for barns and outbuildings, their rustiness would give anyone second thoughts about putting one atop a brand-new log home. Still, they persist as a common country image.

The good news is that metal roofs topping today's homes rarely rust. In fact, they require little care. Manufacturers bake primer onto coils of metal to create a durable base coating. The finish paint coating is applied to the top and bottom of the coil first by roller, then by baking. Contemporary coatings are formulated to resist fading, to shed dirt and to block the growth of algae and fungi, including mildew. And to prevent rust.

Metal roofs are durable. Their high-strength-to-low-weight ratio keeps them from losing impact resistance with age. They resist cracking, shrinking and eroding, and can withstand weather extremes, including hurricanes, tornadoes, hailstorms and severe cold that causes roof ice dams. Metal roofs shed snow effec-

tively, making them popular in regions with heavy snow loads. They're also non-combustible, an appeal to people building log homes in areas subject to wildfires.

Metal roofs are also energy efficient. Light-colored metal reflects sunlight, keeping the home cooler, but even a dark roof rejects 80 to 90 percent of the sun's heat.

Metal roofs come in a variety of styles, some of which resemble other popular roofing materials.

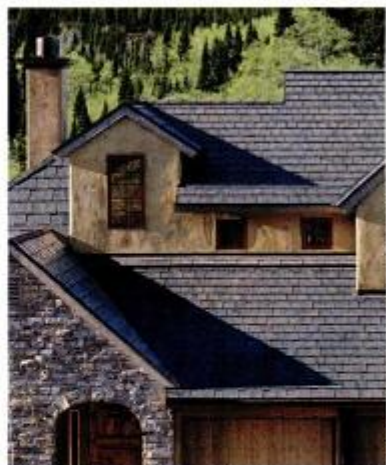
Shingle-slate. Stone-coated metal shingles made to resemble common asphalt roofing have a smooth, uniform look and long-lasting strength.

Tile. Metal can be stamped to resemble clay, ceramic and concrete tile, but it's substantially lighter, so roof framing doesn't have to be as strong to support heavier tile.

Shake. Metal shakes that match the look of wood resist mold and fire far better than the traditional material, are cheaper to install and require lots less maintenance—as in none. Another advantage they enjoy over wood is that they come in a variety of colors, making it easy to blend them with the look of your logs.

Vertical panel. Once shunned, pre-painted vertical panels have improved substantially and are especially popular in colder regions because snow slides easily off them. One of the most popular varieties is the standing-seam metal roof, which can be fabricated on the job site in just a few days and whose interlocking seams keep water from seeping between panels.

Metal roofs cost more than shingles, but most manufacturers guarantee they'll last at least three times longer. The metals commonly used in roofing are steel, aluminum, copper, zinc, stainless steel and titanium. Many of the metals have recycled content, varying from 25 to 95 percent. Incidentally, the term "tin roof," often applied to metal roofs, is a corrup-



Copper shingles make this durable roof indistinguishable from asphalt shingles.

tion of "terne," an alloy of tin and lead that was used as a plating material for roofs in the 19th century.

Finishes are another important element in metal roofing and affect cost and performance. Coil coating was developed in the 1950s and resulted in durable, pre-painted roofs. Further developments brought about more high-performance paints for coil coating, including polyesters, silicone-modified polyesters (SMP) and Kynar. Kynar costs 15 to 35 percent more than SMP, while polyesters are 15 to 25 percent cheaper than SMP. Performance depends a lot on the home's orientation; colors with more sun exposure, for example, will fade faster.

The question most people have about metal roofing is where to buy it. The Metal Roofing Alliance has a web site (metalroofing.com) that can direct you to local contractors who sell and install metal roofs. The site also has information about how installing a metal roof in 2010 can entitle you to a tax credit of up to \$1,500.

Before committing to installing a metal roof, take a closer look at existing log homes that have tin roofs. Roofs in general constitute a big part of the look of homes, just like the log styles, corners, chinking and other design features that are a matter of personal preference. Make sure a metal roof is something you'll want to live with because it'll be around for a long, long time. ■



The traditional standing-seam metal roof is a familiar sight on log homes.

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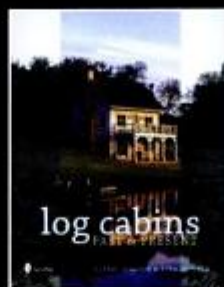
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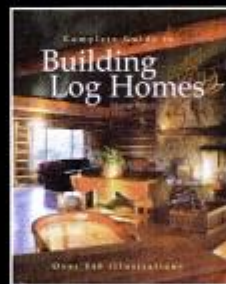
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A simple gable roof adds substantially to the home's mass, but dormers and a peaked entry lighten the load.

Heads Up

Understanding the ins and outs of log-home roofs

ROOFS DO A LOT for log homes besides keep out rain and snow. The shape of a roofline contributes as much to the character of a home as a hairstyle adds to the appearance of someone's face.

Structurally, roofs fall into two general classifications: gable or hip. A gable roof looks like a pup tent over the house. The top of the roof has a ridge that usually spans the long dimension of the house. At each end, a triangular section of wall fills in the space beneath the ridge. A hip roof replaces the gable end walls with segments of roof. Instead of spanning the house from end to end, the main ridge of a hip roof stops short of the end. Angled beams, called hip rafters, run from the ends of the main ridge to the corners of the walls. The result is a roof without gables that slopes in all directions.

Hip roofs aren't as common on log homes as gable roofs for several reasons. They're more complicated and cost more

to build, and they don't lend themselves as well to the exposed log rafter or log purlin framing seen more often in log homes. Still, hip roofs offer the advantage of eliminating gable walls. Gables catch the brunt of sun and weather and so demand careful maintenance. Reaching from the top of an extension ladder to re-stain and caulk the weather-beaten peak of a gable wall in a space often shared by hornets nests or spider webs quickly adds appeal to a hip roof.

While hips are often confined to hip roofs, valleys can show up on any kind of roof. A valley is like a channel formed between two ridges that run at an angle to one another. The presence of valleys in a roofline usually means multiple ridges, which mean a complex roofline, requiring more material and labor to build.

Simple rooflines have several things to recommend them. They are easier and less expensive to build, easier to insulate and

seal, and easier to maintain. What makes a roofline simple? Count the ridges. The simplest roof has a single ridgeline. Dormers can add smaller ridges without adding too much complexity. Because dormers offer additional headroom in what is often an attic space, they can be a good cost tradeoff for usable floor space without adding the cost of a full second story.

Log home and cabin roof construction takes several forms, starting with conventional framing. A conventionally framed roof uses the typical dimensional lumber found at a building supply store or lumberyard. Framing may use either rafters or prefabricated roof trusses. Since rafters require more carpentry, they cost slightly more.

Trusses offer a cost-effective alternative for simple roofs. Trusses are prefabricated for the dimensions and specific design of your house. Flat trusses provide framing for a flat ceiling, while scissor trusses provide

LEFT: Barla Log Homes; James Ray Spahn photo; RIGHT: Sika Log Homes; Duetterly Design photo

framing for a shallow cathedral ceiling. Attic trusses are a special form of flat truss that create a central open area for storage or attic space.

Log homes often use structural log elements for the roof instead of conventional framing. Log or timber rafters go from the top of the wall to a ridge beam usually of log or timbers also. Log or timber purlins run parallel to the ground and are supported by gable end walls. Log or timber roof systems are often pre-fabricated and usually require a large crane and experienced carpenters. This makes them somewhat more costly, although a log roof system can often be erected quickly when all of the components have been pre-cut. Log or timber trusses are also popular. Some are shipped pre-assembled and are simply swung into place by a crane. Others are shipped as components to be assembled at your job site before lifting them into place.

There are many ways to cover a roof. Conventional rafter or truss roofs usually are covered with plywood or OSB sheathing, a tarpaper base and a roof covering



Dormers embellish a roof when they're integrated into the home's logwork.

of shingles, tile or metal. Log or timber roofs may also be covered the same way. Built-up roofs offer a variation than can provide greater energy efficiency than conventional covering methods. In a built-up roof, 2-by-6, tongue-and-groove decking

is laid over a log or timber framework. Rigid insulation is laid on top, with a layer of plywood sheathing above. The result is an insulation sandwich—ideal for cathedral ceilings, where the tongue-and-groove provides an attractive ceiling below while the rigid insulation offers better insulating characteristics than blanket insulation.

Structural insulated panels (SIPs), pre-fabricated sandwiches of rigid foam between layers of sheathing, offer most of the benefits of a built-up roof with other significant advantages. Available in sizes from 4-by-8 feet to 8-by-24 feet, SIPs can provide an energy-efficient and cost-efficient roof quickly. Large panels are lifted into place by the same crane that handles the log or timber framework, covering large chunks of roof area with each panel. The principal drawback to SIPs comes when complex rooflines require that complex angle cuts be made onsite. Squareness and precision of the construction supporting the roof also become critical because any irregularity can cause lengthy and often costly delays.

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Log purlins run parallel to the ground and are supported by gable-end walls.

Cost and appearance concern most people, but consider energy efficiency and moisture control as well. Roofs account for 25 percent or more of a home's heat loss, so your choice of roof system affects your checkbook long after your house is finished.

A number of steps can help improve energy efficiency, including adding insulation, radiant barriers or attic fans. Most people have had the experience of climbing into a sweltering attic. Heat from the summer sun leaking from the attic into your home can make things uncomfortably warm or overwork your air conditioning. Air from a cold attic can leak into your house on winter nights and sunless days, taxing your heating system.

Insulation, ventilation, radiant energy, and air and moisture control all help improve your roof's energy efficiency. Carefully match your insulation level to your climate. Insulation probably affords the greatest bang for the buck when it comes to energy efficiency. Your local building code officials can tell you the minimum R-value of roof insulation for your area, but don't be afraid to exceed it. Homes designed for minimum energy consumption often have twice the amount of insulation required by building codes.

In an attic, insulation lays on top of the ceiling to reduce heat escaping into the attic. Blankets of fiberglass offer the least expensive insulating alternative, followed

by blown-in cellulose. Cellulose usually works better because it is better at filling all spaces. Blanket insulation must be installed carefully to avoid leaving gaps or creating air pockets where the blanket lays against framing or over electrical fixtures.

Cathedral ceilings have insulation either between the framing members or directly above the ceiling covering. Rigid foam insulation does the best job of controlling heat loss and air penetration, although cathedrals with conventional rafters or scissor trusses often use blanket or blown cellulose.

There are other ways than insulation to improve your home's energy efficiency. Light-colored roof coverings reflect sunlight and help reduce heat buildup. Radiant barriers reflect radiant energy, keeping it in or out depending on how the barrier is installed. The benefits of a radiant barrier vary according to your climate, so discuss them with a local energy expert.

In temperate or cold climates, the air inside your home is likely to contain more moisture than the air outside, especially during the coldest months. Moisture from cooking, bathing and even breathing raises indoor humidity. Warm, moist air leaking into attic spaces or voids in cathedral ceiling insulation may condense when it meets a cold surface, like the underside of roof sheathing. This condensation gradually soaks insulation, reducing its effectiveness and creating an excellent environment

Chris Thiede photo

for mold. In extreme cases, homeowners mistake condensation dripping between tongue-and-groove ceiling boards or staining ceiling drywall for a leaky roof.

Avoid such moisture problems by making sure that a vapor barrier keeps moist air away from where it can condense. In cold and temperate climates, a vapor barrier such as polyethylene is usually placed directly against framing just outside the ceiling covering. This stops air movement right at the edge of the interior space. In warm moist climates the vapor barrier may be placed around the outside of framing to prevent moist outside air from hitting framing or wall coverings cooled by air conditioning. Discuss the placement and type of vapor barrier that's right for you with local building-code officials and energy experts.

Vapor barriers are especially important in cathedral ceilings, where there may be only a short distance between the conditioned inside space and the outdoors. Joints between SIPs or rigid foam sheets are especially susceptible and must be carefully sealed, usually with expanding foam and vapor-proof tape.

The final element of your roof system is the covering itself. Shingles, shakes, tile and metal all lend a distinctive look. Shingles generally offer the least expensive covering and come in two basic varieties: standard tabbed shingles or architectural. Standard tabbed shingles, which grace the roofs of most conventional housing developments, come in several weights and thicknesses that relate directly to their lifespan. Shingles are often rated by expected lifespan, typically 15, 30 or 50 years, with weight and cost increasing accordingly, although these ratings seldom reflect real-world conditions.

Architectural shingles are similar to standard ones but heavier and with more textured surfaces. These features improve their lifespan, plus give them a more three-dimensional look. Architectural shingles are also available that mimic the appearance of hand-split wooden shakes or other types of roofing materials.

Shake roofs, usually of split cedar, provide an authentic old-time look. Made of wood, however, they usually lack the durability of composite shingles or metal and may be susceptible to moisture dam-

age. In some areas, shakes are prohibited because of their greater fire risk than other types of roofing.

Clay-tile roofs appear in the some parts of the United States, most notably the South and Southwest, where they provide a distinctive Spanish, Mediterranean or Asian look. Clay-tile roofs have been around for thousands of years, although lately concrete tiles are replacing clay. Roofers require special skills to install tile roofs,

adding to their cost. Also, the weight of tile roofs generally requires more substantial framing. If you intend to have a tile roof, make sure your designer knows it before completing your construction drawings so he or she can calculate framing requirements accordingly.

Metal roofs have long found favor with log-home enthusiasts. In mountain and remote areas, they are often favored for their ability to shed snow and resist sparks



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Complex rooflines enhance a home's character but also add to the cost.

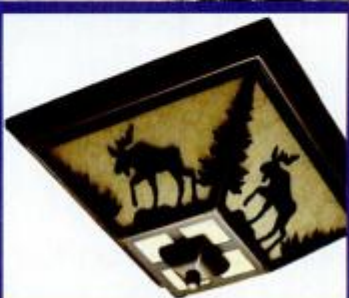
from forest fires. Their durability makes high-quality metal roofs a lifetime investment, although their initial cost places them at the upper end of roofing options. A quality metal roof may cost five times or more as much as a shingle roof.

Basic metal roofing consists of corrugated galvanized metal secured by screws. Look for it on barns and outbuildings. Washers under the screws prevent moisture from penetrating, but they eventually deteriorate, creating spots susceptible to moisture damage. In cold climates, ice sliding down the roof can also shear off exposed fasteners. Standing-seam metal roofs consist of metal panels with a raised seam along the edges. Seams of adjacent panels interlock with fasteners concealed underneath. Protecting fasteners from weather greatly increases the life of a metal roof and almost eliminates maintenance.

When considering roofing alternatives, be sure to consider more than just appearance or initial cost. You'll likely be living with your selection for a very long time. Talk to builders, local building code officials and energy consultants in your area to determine the best roof to shelter your dream home. ■

Jim Cooper, a former general contractor, is the author of Log Homes Made Easy and a LEED Accredited Professional who consults in energy efficient and sustainable building.

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Order Up

Embark on a coast-to-coast quest for log-cabin eateries. **By Janice Brewster**

SUN'S NOT UP YET, but the clock says 5 a.m., and the Old Log Cabin Cafe in Pontiac, Illinois, is open for business. The restaurant has served breakfast every day (except Sunday) since 1926, when Joe and Victor Selloti opened the Log Cabin restaurant and a log gas station along the new Route 66. It's the perfect spot to start your whirlwind tour of log-cabin cafes across the country.

The Sellotis designed their buildings, made from stacked telephone poles, to face east onto Route 66, says Jim Jones of the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. "In 1947, Route 66 was updated, and the highway ended up west of the Log Cabin," Jim says. Undaunted, the owners jacked up the buildings, put them on rollers and turned them to face west.

Today, tourists, European travelers and townsfolk alike come to the cafe for a hearty breakfast, Old Log Cabin cheeseburger or prime rib sandwich.

Finished with your meal? Pay the check and go. Your next stop is the Log Cabin Cafe in far-off Lake Tahoe.

Here in California, the cafe fare is a bit different. Arizona French Toast and Cajun Eggs Benedict top the breakfast menu. Don't worry if you're late; this Log Cabin Cafe also serves lunch—and ice cream. If the weather's nice, eat out on the patio, then get ready to hit the road again.



Local loggers built the Log Cabin Cafe and B&B in Silver Gate, Montana, in 1937.

Steer north to Montana, where the Log Cabin Cafe in Silver Gate supplies breakfast and a bed. Refurbished 1930s-era cabins surrounding the cafe offer log double beds and handy access to a shower house. The cafe sits just a mile from the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park. Get to bed early: Breakfast is served at 7 a.m. in a rustic dining room filled with antiques.

While in the Rocky Mountain region, you could check out two other log-cabin cafes: one located on Main Street in Frisco, Colorado, the other on Main Street in Choteau, Montana. Feeling adventuresome? Book a dinner reservation at the Choteau cafe, purveyor of Blue Jean Cuisine. Its "game dinner" features buffalo and elk.

Time to leave the Old West and head for the Midwest: to Wisconsin, where you'll find the Log Cabin Cafe, home of the Log Cabin Burger, in downtown Crandon. Built in 1917, the log restaurant is known for its home cooking. Here in aptly named Forest County, plan to visit the local attractions: a logging museum in nearby Wabeno, a towering statue of Larry the Logroller and the Lumberjack Steam Train and Museum in Laona. Can't get enough log-cabin culture? Check into the Camp 20 Cabins for the night.

If you're still hungry—and have extra vacation days—book a trip to New Zealand to dine at the Log Cabin Cafe in Clevedon. Stay a while and sample all the specialties: All-Day Cabin Breakfast, Log Cabin Burrito, Log Cabin Wrap and Log Cabin Chocolate Mousse. This accommodating establishment invites you to bring family, friends—and your dog.

Back home, you can loosen your belt and plan a new itinerary packed with cabin cuisine. You still haven't seen the log-cabin cafes in Dover, Tennessee; Hardy, Arkansas; Purling, New York; or Seneca, Kansas.

Bon appétit! 🍴

Did we miss your favorite log-cabin restaurant? Post a write-up and photos at loghomeu.com.

Still Serving

Log-cabin cafes pale beside the number of other long-ago cabins now on their second or even third life. Usually they're representing American authenticity, but sometimes a building is just a building. It's available space. Businesses make good use of these cabins. In fact, so many cabins still stand—and sturdily—that in regions like Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, they turn up as inns and restaurants, but just as often as real estate offices or Main Street gift shops.

Sometimes the original log cabin has been visually and structurally absorbed; usually, it's still very recognizable. Other log cabins aren't so easy to spot because their owners covered up the logs to make them look like ordinary houses. Many owners of these homes today still keep the cladding, yet almost all display all logs on the inside.

The architecture flourishes enough that you might reckon log cabins must be remarkable for surviving hundreds of years, evolving in place. Sadly, these still-standing log buildings are but a fraction of the number of their

brethren that tumbled or were pushed over and returned to the soil where they first sprouted as trees. Perhaps only one of every 100 log cabins and homes ever built still stands. That's not counting recreational cabins, or the re-creations displayed at frontier-heritage villages. Or log cabins that are their very own roadside attractions. Or the ones in America's national parks. These are all well cared for. If neglected, most might not last long.

The richer the region's log-cabin tradition, the more these real cabins still serve. Many tout the log-cabin theme. You rarely find other kinds of places using the material they're made from in their name, no matter how those buildings are used. Stick-Built & Vinyl-Sided Cafe? Unlikely. These aren't buildings like the log places you cozy up to and feel good about being inside or maybe just driving by. Besides the good feelings, the fact of the very logs that give the cafe, inn or store its name having lasted 200-plus years makes people notice, appreciate and admire them.

—Roland Sweet



Antique shop, downtown Strasburg, Virginia



Main Street gift shop, New Market, Virginia

Richard Sweet photos

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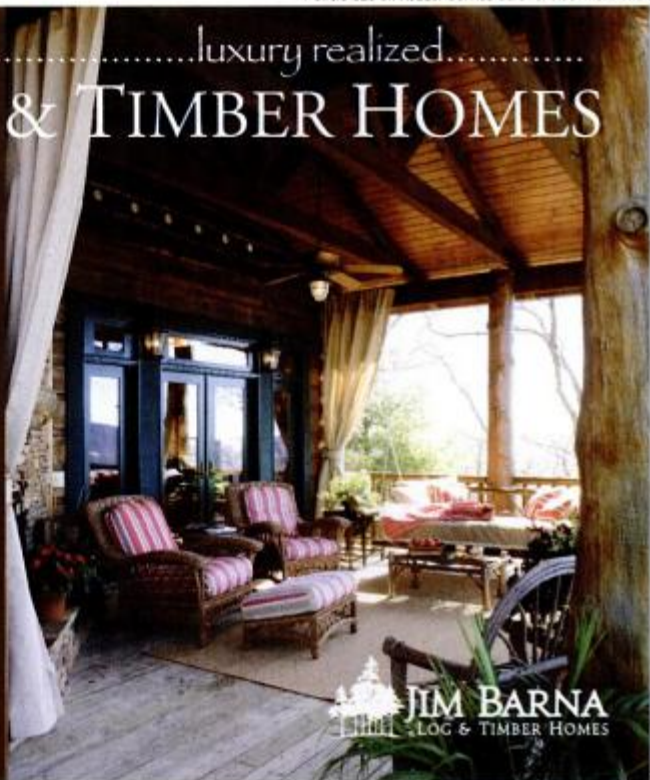
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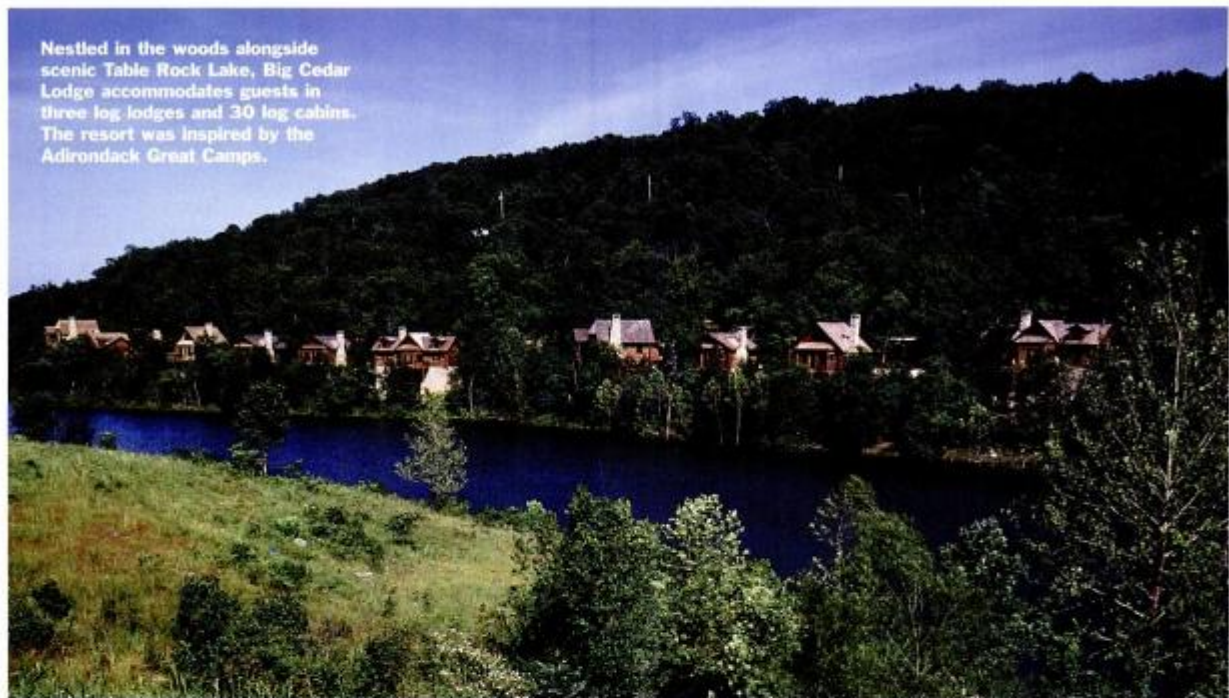
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Nestled in the woods alongside scenic Table Rock Lake, Big Cedar Lodge accommodates guests in three log lodges and 30 log cabins. The resort was inspired by the Adirondack Great Camps.



Rocky Mountain Log Homes photo

Main Attraction

Missouri's Big Cedar Lodge offers an oasis of luxury in the Ozarks.

THERE'S MORE TO BRANSON than live music shows, theme parks, water activities, championship golf courses, historical sites, museums and shopping. As befits the gateway to the Ozarks, Branson also offers top-notch log lodging at the Big Cedar Lodge. Just 10 miles south of Branson's renowned strip, the resort features outdoor recreation, fine dining and big-time amenities, making it a popular destination for honeymoons, romantic getaways and family vacations.

Although Big Cedar has an updated log look, the place dates to the early 1920s. Two wealthy friends, Jude Simmons and Harry Worman, decided to build themselves back-country resort homes in the Ozarks. To do so, they bought 300 acres of oak and cedar forest along the Long Creek Branch of the White River in Big Cedar Hollow (hence the resort's name). Simmons built a log mansion, which he patterned after the Great Camps of the Adirondacks. Worman opted for a Tudor-style, stone-and-stucco house,

with a caretaker's cottage and a detached garage, overlooking Big Cedar Valley.

Both properties eventually were sold to a logging firm and later became the Devil's Pool Dude Ranch. When plans were announced in the 1950s to dam the White River and create a 43,000-acre reservoir, named Table Rock Lake, a land developer bought the property. The resort changed hands several times before Bass Pro Shops acquired it in 1987 and restored its original rustic Adirondack character. Today, some 50 structures, including three main lodges and freestanding cabins and cottages, are scattered over 250 acres.

The lodges feature rooms with kitchenettes, whirlpool baths and fireplaces. Falls Lodge and Spring View Lodge have balcony rooms that view Table Rock Lake. Valley View Lodge has standard and two-bedroom rooms. Thirty log cabins, some with lofts, have wood-burning limestone fireplaces and private decks with outdoor grills, as

well as rustic furnishings, full kitchens and whirlpool tubs.

Guests who long to immerse themselves in the Ozark experience can book one of the lodge's Dogwood Canyon cabins. Located 16 miles from Big Cedar, these rustic one-, two- and three-bedroom log cabins feature tree-shaded decks in a natural setting overlooking the canyon. Inside are well-equipped kitchens, wood-burning fireplaces, sofa sleepers and satellite TVs.

Big Cedar Lodge has five restaurants on the premises. One, the Devil's Pool, serves "contemporary Ozark cuisine" in a log-cabin setting highlighted by bark-covered logs and exposed rafters reminiscent of the Adirondack camps that inspired Jude Simmons. A huge stone fireplace warms the dining room, and hand-wrought chandeliers illuminate antique furnishings and the century-old mahogany bar. The restaurant's signature dish is praline rainbow trout.

Activities at Big Cedar Lodge are exten-

Getting There

Big Cedar Lodge is located in Ridgedale, Missouri, just south of Branson Airport, which opened last year and is serviced by Air Tran and Sun Country airlines providing flights to and from Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth and Minneapolis-St. Paul. Cab service from the airport to the lodge is \$25 for the first two people and \$10 for each additional person. Enterprise is the only on-site car rental company. Or it's an hour south of Springfield-Branson National Airport, served by American, Delta, United and Allegiant, and six car rental companies. For information, call Big Cedar Lodge at 800-225-6343 or visit big-cedar.com. To find out about activities in Branson, visit explorebranson.com.



Guestrooms at Big Cedar Lodge offer down-home comfort and rustic styling, including limestone fireplaces and handcrafted, chinked logs—and all only 10 miles from downtown Branson's bustling entertainment strip.

sive. The highlights are horseback riding, tennis, hiking, swimming in your choice of five pools, golf, and fishing and boating on the lake. The lodge has its own marina. There are endless children's activities.

Big Cedar Lodge offers so much to enjoy, in fact, that guests often find there's no time left over to visit Branson. But who's complaining? 🍷

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Straight Talk

What it takes to finance your log home's construction in today's topsy-turvy market.

THE GOOD NEWS about financing a log home is that lenders have money to lend and are eager to lend to log-home buyers. The catch is that to get it, borrowers need better-than-average equity and a top credit score. In other words, sobered-up lenders have sworn off risks. The challenge is finding out where you fit in this murky picture. "The best thing a log-home buyer can do is get with a mortgage lender and get pre-qualified," advises Doug Groff, senior vice president of American Home Bank, which remains active in the log-home market. "The mortgage lender can outline the lending scenario, find out where you are and tell you what you need to do to get where you need to be."

Pre-qualification is fast and easy. The prospective lender evaluates your cash and collateral to make sure you meet its requirements—basically that you aren't a risk to repay the loan. Speaking of cash and collateral, the more cash you bring to the deal, the better your standing. If you're considering paying off your land, for instance, or other debts to improve your situation, don't. Show the lender the money. Cash is king.

Understand that pre-qualification is an assessment, not approval. You'll most likely have to be able to put up at least a 25-percent down payment toward your home. And 5 percent of that must be in cash and land equity. Banks used to lend on a home's appraised value, based on recent sales of comparable homes in the neighborhood. Because property values are fluctuating, Groff says his company bases its loans on the lower of two values: the lot plus the actual cost of construction; or the home's forecast appraised value. To determine the value of the borrower's lot, the lender uses the appraised value if owned for a year or more; less than a year, the value is based on the original purchase price.

In general, log-home buyers are better risks for construction loans and permanent mortgages. That doesn't mean wanting to buy a log home automatically entitles you to own one. "Owning a home isn't a right," Groff says. "It's a privilege."

That has never been truer, at least according to some log-home companies who say the only thing harder than qualifying buyers for a loan is getting an appraisal

so the loan can get approved. "Appraisals used to take weeks," one company executive says. "Now, we're looking at months. We're talking applicants with 800 credit scores."

Investors are increasingly picky about appraisals, even though most lenders don't require nearby log homes as "comparable sales," just some indication of comparable value. But previously, lenders worked with appraisers they knew and had educated about log homes. Now, all appraisals have to be handled through a third party, who assigns them on a rotating basis to appraisers who may or may not understand what makes log homes special. If your appraisal is unfavorable, your only recourse is to order—and pay for—a second appraisal (again, assigned on a rotating basis), or the lender can ask the appraiser to expand the comparable basis.

To qualify for a construction loan—the riskiest, because the home has yet to be built and thus has no actual value beyond the unassembled materials—borrowers need at least a 700 credit score.

Freddie Mac also has imposed new time limits on individual (one-close) loans that cover both construction and mortgage. This is the financing most log-home buyers rely on to pay for their log package, home construction and the permanent mortgage. Previously, you had 180 days to build your home before needing to have the home's value recertified. Because homes in some markets have been losing value during construction, Freddie Mac has lowered the requirement to 120 days. The clock starts ticking when your lender appraises your house plans.

Besides finalizing plans with a builder before submitting them for appraisal, buyers can choose a lender that doesn't sell its mortgages to Freddie Mac (60 percent don't) or choose a two-close construction loan and mortgage. Another option is to find a lender that doesn't sell its mortgages on the secondary market. Or, if you can't beat the 120-day deadline, submit an appraisal update.

The second-home market remains brisk, Groff notes, but it poses even greater risk for lenders, so much so that mortgage

insurance companies won't even insure second homes, log or otherwise.

For those who do qualify for a construction-to-permanent loan, the good news is interest rates. They are low and, despite plenty of fluctuation, they haven't risen or fallen significantly.

The key is to qualify. "Getting into a log home today, you're going to need some cash," Groff says. "If you have good assets and good collateral, mortgages are readily available."

If you aren't qualified, don't wait for the market to resume offering no-money-down loans. Those days are over. Instead, build up your creditworthiness.

If you do get the loan but then fall behind in payments, don't expect help from whoever winds up servicing your mortgage. A report by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) discloses that mortgage servicers, including many large banks, have found they make more money foreclosing on homeowners than they do offering loan modifications that would benefit homeowners and investors. Servicers, unlike investors or homeowners, generally don't risk losing money on foreclosures, according to the NCLC report, "Why Servicers Foreclose, When They Should Modify and Other Puzzles of Servicer Behavior." In fact, the report notes, servicers usually make money on foreclosures, whereas "a loan modification faces the prospect of near certain loss." The report adds that servicers profit by offering repayment plans or forbearance agreements that do little to reduce homeowners' debt.

There is some consolation in this current quagmire. For once, log-home buyers are on equal footing with other custom-home buyers.

Where's the best place to find a lender to handle your construction and mortgage loans? Start with log-home sales representatives. Any who've sold a home recently that needed financing know where the buyer got it. Look at local lenders where you're moving. Also consider two lenders that specialize in construction-to-permanent loans for log homes: American Home Bank (877-226-5242; bankahb.com) and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (888-564-8462; log.andtimber.com). ■

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Suite Treats

A guide to adding style and comfort to your log-home master bedroom.

MASTER BEDROOMS have grown grander, even in smaller homes. Hence the term "master suite," implying more than just a place to sleep. These intimate

spaces fulfill a range of needs: sanctuary, comfort, a place to renew oneself. Log homes are the ideal backdrop, allowing you to furnish it to create and sustain the

desired mood. Interior designer Cindy Trimble Kelly of Trimble Kelly Studios (trimblekellystudios.com) offers her favorite items for a log-home master suite.

A **Four Bear Lodge Master Bedroom**
Trimble Kelly Studios
trimblekellystudios.com

G **Chaise Fabric A**
Pilar, in Meadow
Michael Jon Design
michaeljondesigns.com

I **Reclaimed Heartwood Pine Floor**
with Clear Finish
Moss Creek Elements
mosscreekelements.net



J **Legacy Collection**
#LG-05 Ivory Gold
Loloi
loloirugs.com

K **Ausible Bed, #1608**
Harden
harden.com

L **Bitterroot Nightstand**
#1623 - Great Camps Finish
Harden
harden.com

C **Nutmeg Leaf Collection**
Bed Linens
Wooded River
woodedriver.com

H **Cabinet Makers Cherry**
Writing Desk with Flip Front
#1690 - Great Camps Finish
Harden
harden.com

M **Cabinet Makers Cherry Bench**
with Loose Cushion
#1605 - Great Camps Finish
Harden
harden.com

D **Chaise Fabric B**
Otani, in Olive
Michael Jon Design
michaeljondesigns.com

E **Chaise Bullion Trim**
in Chocolate
Cornerstone Collection
Seabrook
seabrookdecor.com

F **Bed Linen Throw**
Faux Mink
Wooded River
woodedriver.com



N Wood Wall Stain
Provincial

Minwax
minwax.com

O Bedding Fabric
in Nutmeg Leaf

Wooded River
woodedriver.com

P Tennessee Field Stone
Fireplace Stone

(local stone suppliers)

Q Natural Hickory
Bark Siding

Moss Creek Elements
mosscreekelements.com

R Hideaway Bear
Table Lamp
#87-1917-M1

Pacific Coast Lighting
pacificcoastlighting.com



S Room Trim Paint
in Tobacco

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sherwinwilliams.com

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Nashville Convention Center

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March 12-14

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40 YEARS *in the making*

*An Illinois couple's first date
inspires their log-home dream.*

STORY BY TERESA L. WOLFF

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER WADE

STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL



OPPOSITE: Basing their design on the home that introduced them to logs when they met, Art and Marcy Bieneman tied together the interior and exterior by using identical pine railing for the front porch and the loft catwalk. At the entry, log roof purlins extend to support the peaked overhang.

THIS PAGE: For the rear wall of the great room, the homeowners installed tongue-and-groove pine siding diagonally for a dramatic effect, then applied a clear sealer to bring out the boards' color variations and knots.





On their very first date, Art and Marcy happened to drive by a log home and stopped to take a look. They agreed living in one seemed like fun. At that point, they had no idea they would one day become Mr. and Mrs. Bieneman.

Forty years later, Marcy was reading an article about a log-home builder and how he had acquired his property. Her thoughts flashed back to that first date. She discussed the article with Art, and they began thinking seriously about owning a log home. "While we were out for a drive, we happened upon a 5-acre parcel of farm ground that was for sale," Marcy recalls. "Unfortunately, we opted to sleep on the idea, and when we returned

the following week, much to our disappointment, the property had been sold."

Art and Marcy spent the next three years looking for property in southern Wisconsin. As luck would have it, the first property they'd missed out on came back on the market. This time, they didn't hesitate and made an offer.

The land was far from ready to build on, however. Art and Marcy labored for five more years to remove the overgrown scrub box elder trees, put in a road and build fences. "Because our property has a creek, we had to be stay within covenants that regulated the water flow," Art says. "We hired a local consultant and engineer to tell us what we minimally had to do to be in compliance. This expedited the

OPPOSITE: Handcrafted logs support the great room ceiling. The cross-gable style allows the river rock gas-burning fireplace to extend to the top of the ridge beam. Eight-foot-tall French doors lead to the back deck.

ABOVE: The efficient kitchen layout lets Art and Marcy cook together. Stainless steel appliances complement the barnwood cabinets and freestanding china hutch. Marcy recalls the first time she baked pastry in her Viking oven, she exclaimed, "Now, this tastes like pie!"



process, and within 45 days we had approval to install 18-inch culverts in the creek bed and build a bridge that could hold the weight of a cement truck."

The Bienemans remembered the log home that inspired their dream on their first date and journeyed back there to obtain a set of plans from the owners. They then cut apart the plans and rearranged them to attain the layout that suited their needs. To avoid encroaching on the wetland portion of their property, they positioned their 2,400-square-foot home on the backside of the property.

They visited several log-home companies before settling on Maple Island Log Homes, whose custom handcrafted homes matched their vision. Then they hired Steve Fox of Custom Log Homes to act as their general contractor. "In the course of building this home, we learned it is prudent to heed the advice of your contractors," Marcy points out. "They have more experience and often have some great ideas. For example, Steve recommended we build the kitchen island at the same level as the dining room table to prevent the island from blocking the view. As a

result of his great advice, we can stand in front of the fireplace and have a conversation with someone in the kitchen."

Other ideas helped shape the home. The front door opens to a view of the fireplace in the great room, for instance.

Placing a walkway with a laundry room with a shower between the kitchen and the two-car garage was another good idea for these two outdoorsy homeowners. Art and Marcy can get as grimy as they want while gardening and still not track any dirt into the main portion of the home. They simply shed their soiled clothes at

OPPOSITE: The screened porch is perfect for summer meals, using a table custom made from old barnwood that still sports nail holes.

THIS PAGE: In the loft office, an oak desk built by Amish craftsmen allows a view through Eagle case-ment windows whose solid panes of glass open up the view of surrounding woods. Oak flooring adds to the rustic atmosphere.





the washing machine and shower before entering the kitchen.

On the second story, which features an office and a bedroom separated by a catwalk, a closet used for storage has plumbing roughed in and could be converted to an additional bathroom simply by removing the hardwood floor and paneling on the walls.

To increase living space for when the couple's two children and their families come for one of their frequent and always welcome visits, Art and Marcy finished the basement with a second great room, two bedrooms and a full bathroom.

To ward off the winter cold common in this northern climate, they installed a forced-air furnace fueled by natural gas and augmented by their two gas-burning fireplaces, either of which can easily convert to burn wood if necessary. To allow them to enjoy the outdoors in cooler weather, they installed a wood-burning fireplace with an igniter in the grate on the back porch.

Art feels fortunate to have witnessed the home take shape. "I had just sold my business, and I was able to be on site every day during the construction," he explains. "In addition to all of the grounds preparation, I also had built a 30-by-70-foot barn with a 30-foot-high gambrel-style roof to be used to store any equipment needed to care for the property. When I wasn't busy making decisions about construction, I worked on finishing the interior of the barn."

Art and Marcy quickly learned that if they performed whatever tasks they could, they would be able to afford those extras that might otherwise have been out of their price range. For example, in order to have electric gates into the property, Art dug the trench himself and



TOP: Art and Marcy bought their Amish oak bed specifically for their new master bedroom and hung a farm-scene print above it. A bay window seat is ideal for spotting wildlife.

LEFT: Slate surrounds the whirlpool tub and forms the floor in the window-surrounded master bath. Because the well water is very hard, the couple installed a tub that features air-driven jets to push out all the water so it doesn't accumulate and corrode the jets.

Lush meadows surround the Bienemans' home in northeastern Illinois. Bordering 50 acres of conservation land, the home offers the active couple quick access to a variety of walking paths.



home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,400

LOG COMPANY: Maple Island Log Homes

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Steve Fox of Custom Log Homes

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE RESOURCES ON PAGE 77

laid 3-inch PVC pipe for the wiring.

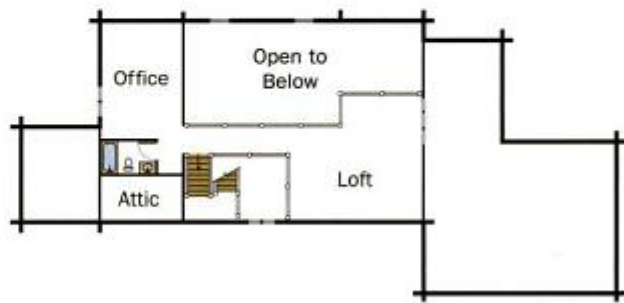
Thanks to their foresight and hard work, once the home was built the property was ready for landscaping. Marcy's preference was for almost all of the gardens to be planted with perennial flowers and grasses. "When anyone comes to visit us, Marcy names a tree after them,"

Art says.

"We christened our property 'God's Whispering Acres' and named our house, 'Anam Cara,' which is Gaelic for 'soul friend,' because we had kept this home in our hearts for almost 40 years," Marcy says. "This home is sacred to us. We feel blessed to live in such a heavenly place." ■



Main Level



Upper Level

they did it **THEIR WAY**



*A couple's vision and frugality make
their North Carolina home affordable.*

STORY BY ROLAND SWEET

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

STYLING BY COLLEEN MACOMBER

An open layout was the cornerstone of Chuck and Linda Stewart's design for their retirement home. Leaded-glass doors open to the marble-floor foyer and look through to the great room and the mountain view beyond the rear deck. "There's no place in the house without a view," Linda notes.



A catwalk connecting the two upstairs bedrooms provides overhead drama for the spacious great room. The 21-foot-high ceiling and oversized log-framed windows further enhance the space. Because their wall art is dear to them, Chuck and Linda felt it was important to use drywall for some of the interior for a gallery effect.





A 33rd anniversary gift vacation from their daughter introduced Chuck and Linda Stewart to western North Carolina. The scenery and tranquility—a contrast to their fast-paced, stress-filled lives in Cleveland—inspired them to draw up a five-year plan to move there when they retired. After settling into their new log home, right on schedule, they calculated that sticking to their plan ultimately saved them \$100,000.

They also benefited from some unplanned luck, notably selling their Cleveland home at the height of the housing boom. “Two weeks after we closed, the crash hit and dropped prices,” Linda notes. “Plus, the buyer, a bachelor, insisted on buying our furniture. We figure we saved \$25,000 by not having to pay to move it, and we used the money to buy replacement pieces specifically for the new house.”

Their strategy consisted of two parts: preparation and design. The Stewarts had built four previous homes, so they knew the script. Also, Linda had 35 years sales experience for a major corporation and knew how to negotiate, including with contractors, suppliers and log-home companies. “I enjoy the satisfaction of getting a deal,” she says. “The way I make money is by saving money.”

They also knew what features they wanted and didn’t want in their new home, which in size and layout resembles the Cleveland home they loved. “We looked at tons of plans but saw none that suited us better than the home we were already living in,” Linda says. “So we adopted that plan for our new house.”

They built on a mountainside in a small resort community. They passed up a higher-elevation site in favor of one with a more gradual slope. The 2.1-acre wooded lot still had views and privacy,

OPPOSITE: The flat interior eastern white pine D-style logs merge seamlessly with the tongue-and-groove ceiling. Anchoring the dining area of the great room is an 11-foot table, which enjoys a sunrise view.

ABOVE: Smart shopping not only helped the Stewarts stretch their budget, but also allowed them to buy quality items, such as the KraftMaid kitchen cabinets they found at a dent sale. Linda hired a Cleveland company to travel to North Carolina to install the granite countertops. The lighter maple flooring, crown molding and knotty pine ceiling further highlight the cabinets.



The catwalk over the great room that connects the two upstairs rooms was a last-minute change to the layout. Plans originally called for two staircases flanking the foyer, one leading to each room and allowing the view from the entry through to the great room to remain unimpeded.

The Stewarts felt the stairs ate up too much floor space, however, and decided the catwalk would work better. When it was installed, the builder noted that the laminated beams spanning the 21-foot-wide great room needed a centerpost to support the weight. Linda rebelled at the bare post in the middle of the room, until she figured out to cover it with the same stone used for the fireplace (page 41).

but the cost to develop it was much lower.

The surrounding 500-acre community has a variety of housing, including log homes, which struck the Stewarts as appropriate and desirable for the location. Their quest for knowledge about log construction led them to a home show, where they met Jim and Diana Reedy, sales reps for Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, not in North Carolina but in Ohio.

"I went down with Chuck and Linda to walk the property and listened to their ideas for a design," Jim recalls. "Linda had a very definite vision of what they wanted, and my job was to facilitate the design."

After listing their requirements, Linda says she told Jim that if Kuhns Bros. could build the home the way

they wanted it, they'd buy it. The company agreed.

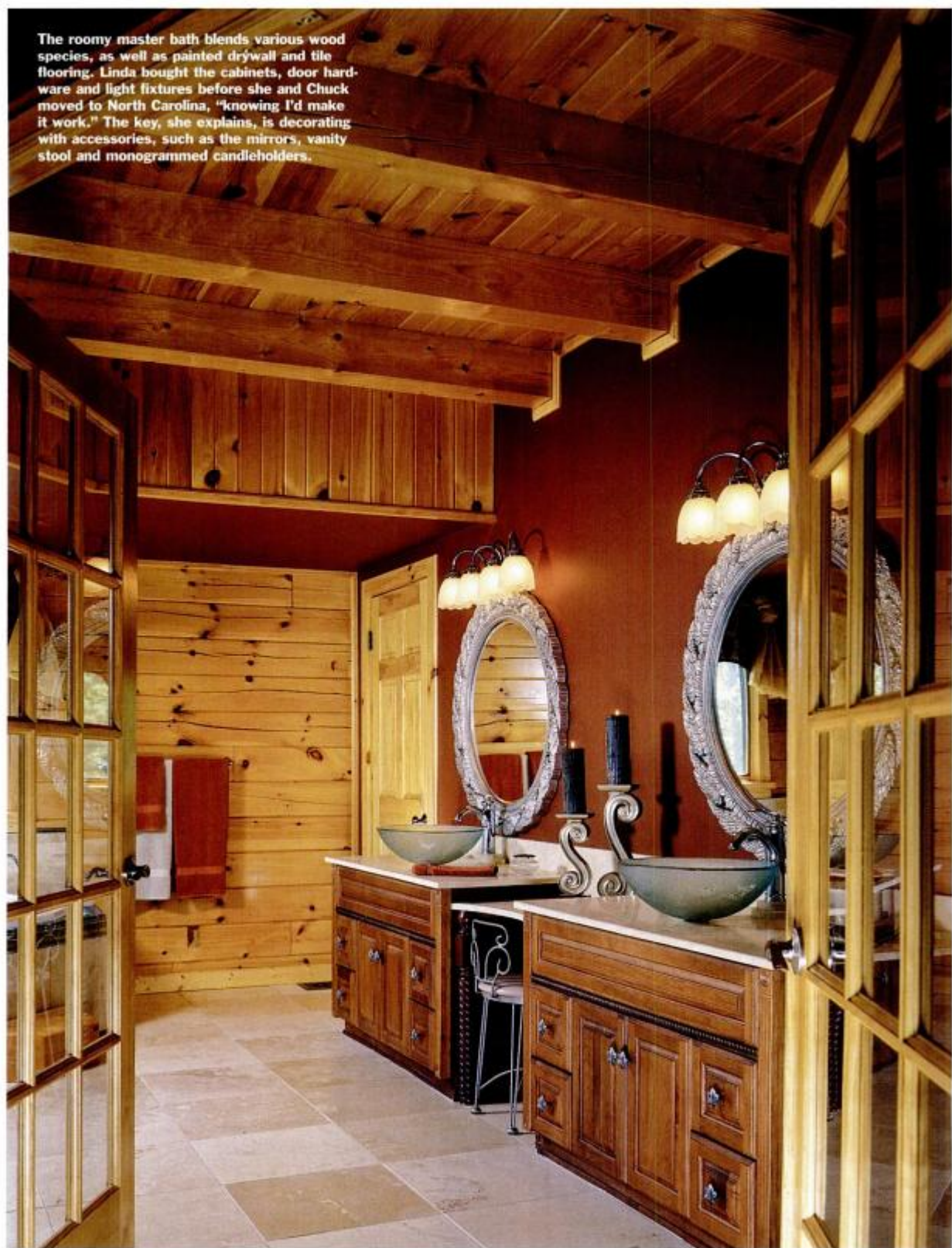
Above all, they wanted the house laid out with a few large rooms, where people could gather comfortably, rather than several small rooms, and oriented them to maximize views and light. Two projecting half-octagons for the dining area and master bedroom amplify those goals. "Our Cleveland house had octagons, and we liked the way the surrounding windows opened up the walls," Linda says.

The front of the home begins with a roomy porch that opens to a foyer looking through the great room to the mountain view and deck opposite. Both the porch and deck are favorite hangouts for the couple. "We especially enjoy sit-



The Stewarts designed two half-octagons to surround the dining area and master bedroom (above) with windows. The result is an airy interior and wood-canopied bedroom ceiling to gaze up at. By buying furniture ahead of construction, they also could plan window placement to accommodate the bed and side tables.

The roomy master bath blends various wood species, as well as painted drywall and tile flooring. Linda bought the cabinets, door hardware and light fixtures before she and Chuck moved to North Carolina, "knowing I'd make it work." The key, she explains, is decorating with accessories, such as the mirrors, vanity stool and monogrammed candleholders.



Because of their sloping lot, the Stewarts designed a big house with a small footprint. Their favorite spot to sit outdoors is the front porch, which is topped by a 26-foot prow roof and enjoys a view of the resort's 40-foot waterfall.



ting on the front porch and watching the resort's 40-foot waterfall," Linda notes.

Because they were still working at their jobs when construction was due to start, the couple hired a project manager, but Jim notes that Chuck and Linda were clearly in charge of the project all the way. Chuck retired first and moved to North Carolina to finish the house. Linda commuted, nine hours each way. As work progressed, the couple pitched in with painting, staining and whatever else they could do, not so much to save money as to make sure everything was done to their satisfaction. "A house is the biggest expense in people's lives," Linda says. "Why wouldn't you make the effort to get everything the way you want?"

Almost as soon as they started their retirement plan, the Stewarts began buying furniture whenever they found a bargain and storing it until their house was built. Their kitchen cabinets, for example, came from a dent sale, although the marring was negligible. Their favorite find was a Maitland Smith bookcase, which retailed for \$25,000, but they bought it for \$4,300 because the original buyer canceled. "By

not feeling the pressure to buy in a hurry, we could shop estate sales, store closings and such to find bargains on top-quality items," Linda says, pointing out, "We live frugally, but we aren't cheap."

She emphasizes that the key to making their plan succeed was sticking to it to avoid the two biggest budget busters: changes and upgrades. It's tempting to react impulsively, especially when builders encourage you to heed their suggestions to do things better. "A home should reflect who you are," Linda notes.

She viewed the home as an opportunity to express herself, even if her ideas struck others as unconventional. "Everyone told me I was crazy to put a marble floor in our foyer, for example, but I wanted it, and it turned out wonderfully," she says. "It's important not to be concerned with what others think, whether it's friends or builders. You need to make your home the way you want. Otherwise, what's the point?"

The Stewarts did eventually deviate from their plan. When Chuck had a heart attack shortly after they moved in, the Stewarts finished off their basement to

include a living room, kitchen and bedroom with bath, just in case the time came when they needed to make the lower level a one-level main living space. Until then, it serves as fully equipped guest quarters for their daughter's family or for friends from Cleveland.

Meanwhile, they're making the most of retirement and getting to know the resort's other residents, who moved from all over the country and have formed a new community, with love of the land as their common ground. Most of all, the Stewarts savor the activity and serenity of their new lifestyle. "After Cleveland, the outdoors is a joy," Linda says. "We feel like we're on vacation." ■

home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 3,828

LOG COMPANY: Kuhns Bros, Log Homes

BUILDER: Mike Frye

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
SEE RESOURCES ON PAGE 77.

A large, rustic log home interior. On the left, a large stone fireplace with a fire burning inside. The ceiling is made of dark wooden beams and logs. The walls are also made of logs. Large windows on the right side offer a view of a snowy landscape. The floor is made of polished wood. In the background, there are green armchairs and a dark sofa. A floor lamp is also visible.

What's Up Under Foot

Log homes feature fashionable floors that invite, 'tread on me.'

By Leah Gross and Linda Jovanovich

Log-home floors do more than keep furniture from falling through to the basement. They bear the responsibility to reinforce the overall informality that characterizes log homes. At the same time, more and more homeowners are choosing floors that follow fashion. Right now, rustic, weathered and antique looks are the hottest thing going in hardwood, ceramic and stone.



The old-but-new look appears on many varieties of hardwood that display texture with hand-carved grooves and knots; tiles, reminiscent of linen; and marble, limestone and travertine tumbled and distressed to appear antique. Some wood manufacturers are even hand-beveling and distressing individual planks and then finishing them to achieve the appearance of a century-old wood floor. This weathering technique assures that no two floors look exactly alike.

Not surprisingly, most log-home floors are wood. It adds style and elegance to a room. It also matches any decor, is easier than ever to care for and provides great value. It also improves the living quality of homes because it doesn't trap dust, pollen or other allergens.

WOOD is a broad category. It encompasses traditional floors, heritage floors and exotic floors. Traditional floors use standard-size slats milled from hardwood (usually oak) and softwood (most often pine). Heritage floors rely on reclaimed wood, as well as new wood milled in wide or faux-distressed planks. Exotic floors include tropical hardwoods and the new darlings of the sustainability set: bamboo and cork.

Oak, maple and heart pine are the most popular choices for wood floors in log homes,



Natural stone tile creates colorful patterns.

but other species are finding favor. Black walnut and cherry birch are some of the newer looks in hardwood flooring.

A popular trend is no-wax, pre-finished hardwood flooring because it eliminates messy on-site sanding and unpleasant chemicals. It comes in many colors and installs easily.

Besides complementing wall logs, wood floors mix well with other wood, such as kitchen cabinets. To make a small kitchen look larger, for example, consider installing lighter cabinets and a darker hardwood floor. Having lighter tones at the horizontal eye level will make the area seem larger, and the darker floor will warm up the room. But limit the number of contrasting wood tones in the kitchen to about three.

Elsewhere, consider blending light, medium and dark tones in log walls and hardwood furniture with contrasting floors.

Resilient flooring materials include vinyl and linoleum, which is regaining popularity.

Reclaimed wood flooring adds old-fashioned authenticity to traditional log homes.

You don't want your furniture to disappear into the floor. If your furniture is dark, for instance, you might want a medium-toned wood floor. If the furniture is light, try a darker floor.

But wood isn't the only option log-home owners enjoy. Here are the others. Remember that most homes today use a variety of flooring materials, depending on the function of the room and the desired style.

LAMINATE FLOORING is a durable and creative option. It's made from a dense fiberboard core with top and bottom fiber-pattern layers sealed under high pressure with a durable, plastic-like substance.

Laminate flooring is one of the easiest floors to install because it can be laid over any flat surface. It's also popular because it can be made to look exactly like hardwood, stone or tile while providing great strength.

Although plastic laminate floors are extremely durable, once they are scratched or worn, they can't be refinished or recoated. Another drawback is that the pattern is sometimes mechanically printed, meaning many or all of the boards are identical.

CERAMIC TILES are a popular choice for kitchens, bathrooms and entryways because of their beauty, elegance and style. Ceramic tiles are also a practical option for high-traffic areas, where tracked-in dirt, accidental spills and excess moisture would make carpet difficult to maintain.

New technology replicates the gloss levels of stone and textures in glazed ceramic tile and textured grout. New tiles



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VINYL FLOORING is a versatile option. It's easy to keep clean, making it a prime candidate for kitchens, bathrooms, mudrooms, recreation rooms and other high-traffic areas. Vinyl flooring is considered a soft floor and comes in a broad range of colors, styles and patterns, similar to ceramic tiles.

Vinyl flooring is usually sold in large adhesive sheets rather than single peel-and-stick tiles. Some top-of-the-line vinyl floors are made to closely resemble ceramic tiles and even hardwood floors.

CARPET (broadloom) is one of the best ways to add coziness and comfort. Its broad range of colors and styles allows people to add their own personality to living spaces, while the right shades can either open up a small room or create a warm intimate atmosphere in a spacious setting. Carpet also offers practical advantages. It helps prevent slips and falls, it absorbs noise, and its insulating properties can reduce heating and air-conditioning costs.

Bold geometrics are back on carpets, as is the Southwest look. New looms, able to create as many as 30 different shades of color in a single design, provide rich texture and dimension. Also trendy are modular carpet floors that can be easily inserted into a base, forming a single snap-together unit.

AREA RUGS are a simple and effective way to add color and style to a home. They're also an economical alternative to broadloom, providing the comfort and practical-



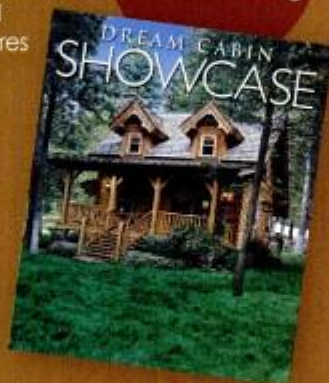
Ceramic tiles are natural and durable.

DREAM CABIN SHOWCASE

Welcome to the premier issue in the all-new Showcase series! This unique Dream Home Showcase series spotlights the best log, timber, hybrid and custom homes in the market. The debut issue highlights dream cabins. You'll find page after page of "cabin" features which are sure to inspire that distinctive American dream... a warm, cozy log cabin to call home!

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Area rugs add color and style to any floor.

ity of carpet while retaining classic styling. Area rugs today come from all over the world and are made by machine or by hand. Hand-made rugs obviously cost more because of the time they take to

make. Machine-made rugs, while usually less expensive than hand-made ones, can be just as elaborate in design.

Area rugs enjoy big advantages. They are used with other kinds of flooring, and can soften hard surfaces and define furniture groupings.

STONE FLOORING options include slate and marble. Both are extremely durable but convey entirely different looks. Slate is rustic, marble refined. But stone can be produced and assembled to achieve most any look.

CONCRETE SLAB FLOORS are associated with basements and garages but lately are making their way into other rooms, especially those that transition from the outdoors. Durability is their chief advantage, and new colors make great alternatives to the standard gray.

Affordability influences choices, so manufacturers have labored to produce flooring that looks expensive but isn't. Examples are solid bronze tiles that can be incorporated with ceramics on bathroom and kitchen floors. Technological improvements have brought down the price of high-quality textured carpet and rugs. Laminates can provide a hardwood look, right down to the wood grain, to appeal to bargain hunters; what's more, these hardwood look-alikes require little maintenance and are quite durable.

To meet consumer demand, floor-covering products are becoming more versatile to suit individual tastes. This response is especially beneficial to log-home owners. Whether you're looking for the perfect shade of ecru or an antibacterial finish on your hardwood, the sky is the limit when it comes to personalizing your floors.

When planning your log home, you can always fall back on traditional floors. They're tried and true. But if you want to show some flair, check out the latest styles to make your new home even more of a standout. ■

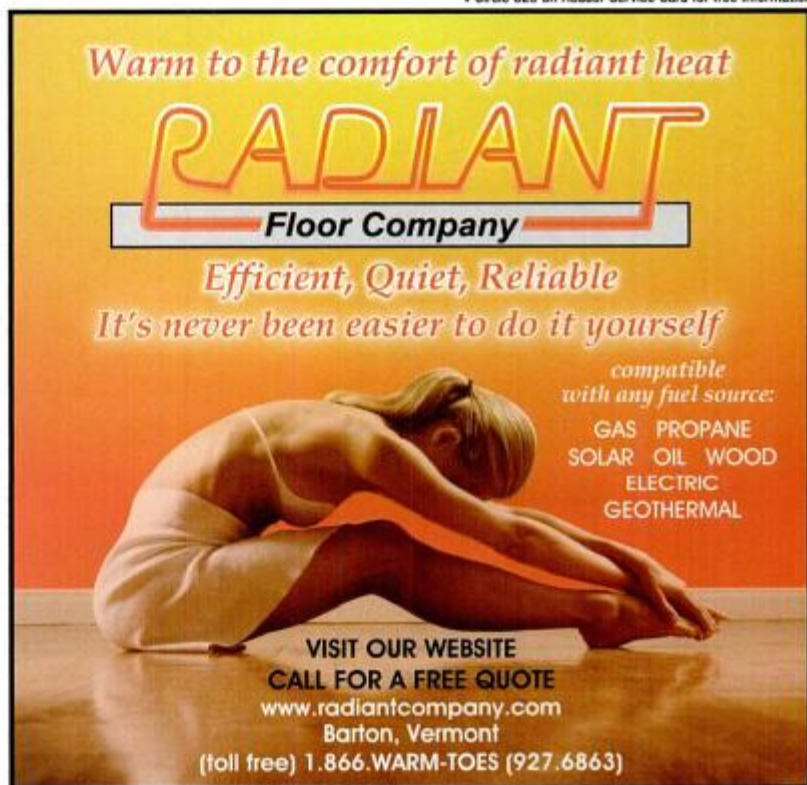


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Choosing Earth-Friendly Flooring

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, the flooring standard for most people most of the time has been dirt. There are several very good reasons: It's cheap, never wears out or needs to be vacuumed or mopped, and doesn't have to be synthesized, modified or imported from great distances. Even today, when scrutinizing dirt with the modern eco-conscious mind, we can add that it is thoroughly sustainable and infinitely recyclable. What more could anyone ask for?

A sense of decorum, perhaps. Maybe this is why a few ambitious settlers added wooden planks over log joists and meticulously planed them smooth with an adze. But this is the 21st century, and most people not currently living rurally in developing nations are beyond that now.

For better or worse, you have cultivated a taste for manufactured goods not likely to be abandoned. At the same time, you want flooring that is renewable and sustainable, something you can walk on with the pride of knowing that an old-

growth forest wasn't plundered to provide you with a handsome, durable surface under your feet. Where do you look for such products?

A good start would be the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Formed in the wake of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, FSC is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests. There are dozens of groups out there pushing pretty much the same agenda, so why should FSC be any different? It has a practical side. While many other well-meaning organizations petition governments and launch campaigns to raise awareness of irresponsible forest management, FSC works from the business end of things to ensure that forest products—including those under your feet—come from forests that meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. More than 250 million acres of sustainable forests in 81 countries currently meet FSC criteria. This is an area bigger than the states of Texas and Arizona com-

bined, so it is no small enterprise. And only products responsibly manufactured from timber harvested from these forests have earned the right to carry the FSC label.

What kind of **WOOD FLOORING** can you get with the FSC stamp of approval? You name it. Brazilian La Paz, Corsica Oak, White Tigerwood, Hickory, Bolivian Soto, Patagonian Rosewood, Brazilian Maple—these are just a few of the FSC-certified floors. If you are looking for a particular type of wood flooring, chances are you can find an FSC-approved version of it, and for not much more money than you'd pay otherwise.

BAMBOO is another increasingly popular flooring option. Although technically a grass, it is remarkably hard and durable. But perhaps the most appealing property of bamboo—to the eco-conscious mind, at least—is its remarkable growth rate. Once established, bamboo timber can be harvested every one to three years, with a five- to sixfold annual increase in biomass compared with most trees. And because

Photo: Neopolitan barocco floor/dary lauhman photo

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it grows so densely, bamboo can yield 20 times more timber than trees in a given area without needing to be replanted.

Most bamboo flooring originates in China's Guangzhou Province. Because it is grown in plantations, have no fear that your floor was made at the expense of a panda's dinner. Once harvested, the bamboo is cut into strips, boiled in both water and a boric acid solution to remove the starches and sugars, then laminated into solid boards before being milled into planks for flooring. Smith & Fong Company is the first manufacturer of bamboo flooring that carries the FSC stamp, but others are soon to follow.

How about **CARPETING**? It feels soft underfoot and can warm a room simply by virtue of being there. Perhaps that's why the first thing we do after installing a wood floor is to find area rugs to properly accent it. The problem is, most carpeting is made of nylon, which, in turn, is made from petroleum. It evokes an image that's anything but green. To make matters worse, millions of pounds of old carpeting end up in landfills every year, where they take centuries to biodegrade.

So why am I even talking about it? Because, if you're like me, you're going to



New flooring favorite bamboo is abundant, renewable, durable and attractive.

have some carpeting in your new log home no matter what, so the least I can do is to tell you the news is not all bad. I replaced the wavy carpeting in the loft of our log home with half-meter-square modular carpet tiles from FLOR. A division of Interface Inc., FLOR is committed to producing all its carpeting from 100 percent recycled

materials. And though it's not quite there yet, it has made all its carpeting recyclable. When it's time to replace your old FLOR carpeting with new, FLOR will gladly take the old carpet tiles back for recycling into a new generation of tiles.

Not only is it durable and recyclable, but its modular design also makes it easy for homeowners to install. Anyone handy with a tape measure and carpet knife can install FLOR carpet tiles.

But you might be a traditionalist who believes all carpeting should be tightly stretched in a room laboriously denuded of furniture. If so, look no further than Mohawk Industries' EverStrand line, the first carpeting with fibers made from 100 percent recycled content. Plastic bottles, to be precise—more than 3 billion of them each year. You may one day massage your toes in carpeting made from your own discarded Gatorade containers.

Admittedly, hardwood or bamboo flooring, whether FSC-certified or not, can never be as eco-friendly as dirt. And carpeting, no matter what it's made of, will never have an environmental resume as green as terra firma. But once in a while you just have to make some sacrifices.

—Rex A. Ewing

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(02) Light Gold

(03) Medium Gold

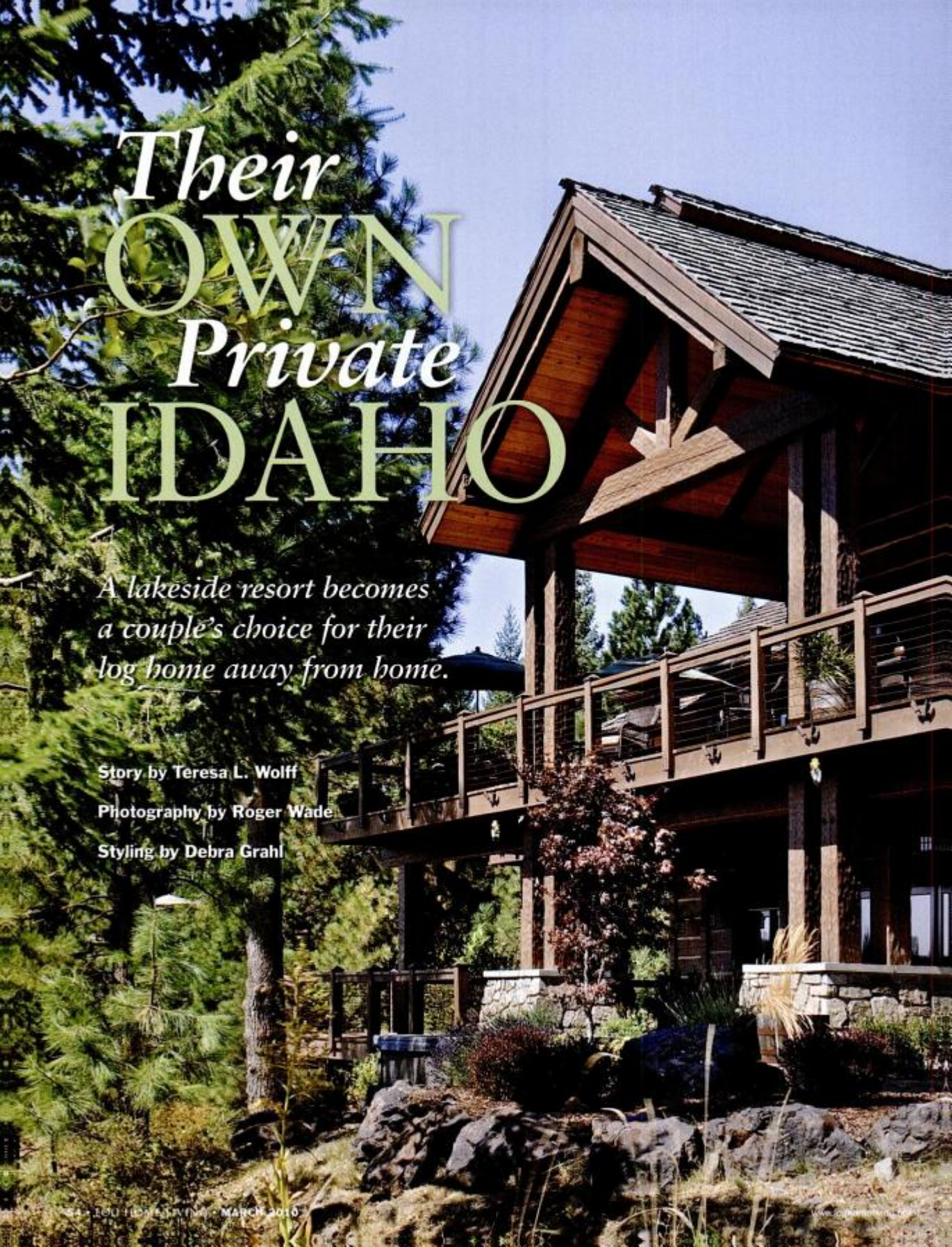
(04) Medium Reddish Brown

(05) Dark Brown

(06) Barn Gray

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*A lakeside resort becomes
a couple's choice for their
log home away from home.*


Story by Teresa L. Wolff

Photography by Roger Wade

Styling by Debra Grahl

Marie and Merrel Olesen planned an Old World-style home with extensive decking to enhance their enjoyment of their land. Heavy timbers form the base for the king-post truss on the covered portion of the lakeside deck. All-natural materials in the home include the hewn logs, granite foundation and chimney, cedar decking and shake shingles on the roof.





THIS PAGE: The main-level deck boasts a breathtaking view of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Local artisan Dan Darden hand-pounded copper with a bronze wrap to fashion the caps for the railing posts and copper and rusted steel for the chimney cap.

OPPOSITE: A gold-tufted armless loveseat graces the foyer, where Dan Darden made the copper and bronze newel post caps that match those on the deck, Aagesen Millworks crafted the hickory door, and Darrell Tuma designed and built the staircase from pine for the upper portion and maple for the lower.



When Marie and Merrel Olesen started looking for property to build a vacation home, their goal was to find a spot as idyllic as their primary residence in La Jolla, California. Envisioning his impending retirement, Merrel wanted pine trees and the added benefit of being within an hour's drive of his mother near Spokane, Washington.

Their search led them to The Club at Black Rock, a golf community near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Located overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene, the 1,800-acre resort offers amenities and activities, plus privacy and security. More than half the land is open space. Such communities are increasingly popular with people who use their log homes part time, and the Olesens know why: peace of mind.

They were especially pleased that Black Rock welcomes log-homes because the woodland setting stirred their

long-time passion for one. In fact, they bought two. Their intention was to build a spec home of round logs to live in while they designed and built their ultimate log home, made from hand-hewn logs. The handcrafted, flat-surfaced logs for their permanent home shown in these pages aren't common in the West, where big round logs are the rule, but hewn logs present a more finished appearance, which suited the couple better.

When they asked about local log builders, their salesperson at Black Rock steered them to Randy and Mary Campbell, who specialize in custom log homes. The Campbells in turn recommended Caribou Creek Log Homes to provide the logs. "Mary and I collaborated with the Olesens and added many special features in the design phase and during construction," Randy recalls. "Merrel's father had been a builder, and Marie has a designer mentality. We de-

cided on a general layout, and Caribou did the drawings for the log package. Since all of our personalities just fit, the process went smoothly."

The Olesens agree. "Our plan for the home was to be able to have family and friends as overnight guests, as well as entertaining large groups," Marie says. "At the same time, when Merrel and I are here by ourselves, we wanted it to function as a one-bedroom house."

The foyer of the 4,300-square foot home leads directly into the open living room, dining area and a kitchen with a pantry. A master bedroom suite to the right of the foyer fulfills the homeowners' wishes for a one-bedroom layout.

The walkout basement includes a paneled den, two guest bedrooms—each with its own full bath—and a laundry room. Marie's office is located in the small second-story loft. An oversized two-car attached garage is set at a 90-degree

In the great room, the immense granite fireplace, crafted by third-generation mason Mark Nowoj, fits snugly into the hand-hewn log roof system. Transoms top the patio doors, which view the scenic lake. The leather love-seat is paired with overstuffed chairs, introducing softness and comfort to the sturdy setting.







angle to the home and includes a bay for Merrel's golf cart and additional room for his workshop.

"When we were discussing floor plans, the owner of Black Rock, Marshall Chessron, told us to build a 3,000-square-foot home with a 4,500-square-foot deck, as we were going to want to be outdoors to enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery of Coeur d'Alene," Marie says. "We heeded his advice to an extent. Our deck runs the entire length of the lakeside view of the home. I can easily accommodate 30 people for an alfresco

dinner. The deck is my favorite part of the house."

Marie favored a European look for the home's interior and worked with Maureen Pena in San Diego to decorate it appropriately. She also used a designer in Coeur d'Alene for the window and bedding choices. She jokes that she "played it safe" by choosing many pieces and fabrics from the Ralph Lauren collection. Robert Newton of Newton Antler Lighting in Spokane, Washington, made the chandeliers, sconces and lamps, mixing the wide antlers of the European

fallow deer with naturally shed North American deer antlers to soften the arrangement and make the lighting more European and less Western.

"Over the past 30 years, Merrel and I have collected posters. I am especially fond of the World War I posters that highlight the contribution of American women to the war effort," Marie notes. "We used several of our favorites to add a special touch to the home."

To further reinforce the home's European motif, Randy Campbell contracted with Paul Pidskalny, owner of



The Joinery, to craft all of the cabinetry. Paul carved, distressed and added a glazed finish to all of the woodwork, cabinets and vanities. In the lighter-colored alder, his crew carved worm holes to add a primitive feel. "We grind and sand the wood to eliminate that flat, factory finished look," Paul explains. "As a result, the woodwork appears to undulate and mimic the hand-hewn logs."

Marie's approach to the dining room furniture was comfort and functionality. She placed two square tables together to create a top with sufficient surface

for six persons to dine comfortably. The tables have side leaves that fold underneath and can be raised to make a circular game table. She added reproductions of the chairs found at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland. Their antler-shaped back and side arms are so comfortable, she says, that her guests are more inclined to stay at the table and visit.

Although an electric heat pump is the home's primary heating source, the Olesens added two outdoor fireplaces and two indoor fireplaces. Both were

OPPOSITE: Hurd patio doors lead from the dining room to the deck overlooking the lake. Marie used upholstery fabric for the window treatments to balance the scale of the massive logs. A special finish lets the engineered wide-plank maple flooring mimic reclaimed wood.

ABOVE: The kitchen artfully weds the hand-hewn logs and custom cabinetry. The hickory peninsula with bread-board end is where the homeowners enjoy playing board games. Cabinetmaker Paul Pidskalny built a secret door in the panel closest to the wall to convert potentially unusable space into storage for their games. He also crafted the refrigerator panels to match the alder cabinets.



LEFT: The master bath features a honed granite countertop on an alder vanity and a whirlpool tub surrounded by travertine tile. Studded leather encases the mirrors over his-and-her sinks.

BOTTOM LEFT: Hickory armoires flanking a chest-of-drawers solve clothes storage in the master bedroom. Recessed lighting in the cathedral ceiling augments natural illumination through the patio doors, where the homeowners enjoy a private view of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

constructed in the true masonry style without an insert to contribute to the Old World ambience.

Landscaping the property has been a work in progress. Marie and Merrel enlisted four different companies to help plant trees and install the large rocks and hardscape. "Every year we add another layer, and it looks better," Merrel says.

Although Marie doesn't particularly relish the task of gardening, she loves the result. She has filled the deck with pots of lush, blooming flowers, despite the challenges of the short Idaho growing season.

Guests entering the home cross an old railroad-style bridge between the driveway and front door. Beneath the bridge, the Olesens added a stream that runs across the front of the house. Water bubbles out of a series of rocks and works its way down to a pond on the other side.

The journey Marie and Merrel began many years ago has resulted in more than just a home. They've made new friends and found a place where their family and friends can enjoy the amenities Black Rock offers. They even share a community garden with 15 other families and enjoy the fresh vegetables all summer.

The crown jewel, though, is their log home. "When we walk in the door, the home still has that special smell of the wood and the feeling of sturdiness of the heavy log walls," Marie points out. "The home is beautiful but not intimidating. Our guests feel so comfortable they refer to our home as summer camp, as it is one long house party all season. It is a privilege to live in this log home." ■





Competing with the view from the lower-level den, the fireplace features two three-piece corbels that support the boxed alder mantel and a tapered hood with crown molding. Alder doors to the left open to reveal an entertainment center. Patio doors lead to the spa.

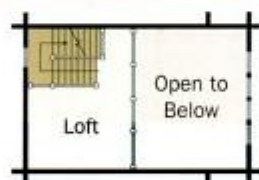
home details

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 4,300

LOG COMPANY: Caribou Creek Log Homes

BUILDER: Campbell and Campbell

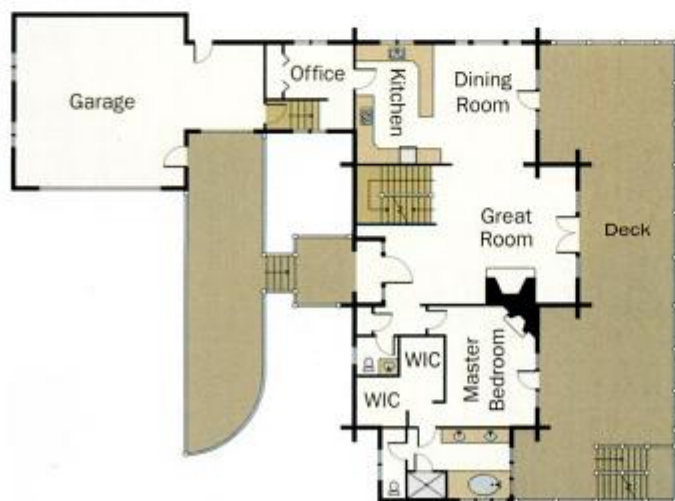
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- 010 Deltec Homes Page 66
- 012 Expedition Log Homes LLC Page 73
- 014 Hiawatha Log Homes Page 27, 74
- 015 Hochstetler Milling LTD Page 74
- 016 Honest Abe Log Homes Inc. Page 70
- 025 Jim Barna Log & Timber Homes Page 23, 75
- 019 Katahdin Cedar Log Homes Page 2-3
- 020 Kuhns Bros. Log Homes Page 7, 75

- 021 Lantz Modular Log Homes Page 65
- 022 The Log Connection Page 78
- 023 Log Home Outlet Page 18
- 024 Log Homes of America Inc. Page 76
- Maple Island Handcrafted Log Homes Page 13
- 026 Meadow Valley Log Homes Page 67
- 027 Montana Log Homes Page 79
- 031 Satterwhite Log Homes Page Inside Front Cover-1
- 033 Southland Log Homes Page Back Cover
- 034 StoneMill Log Homes Page 51, 76
- 037 Whisper Creek Log Homes Page 77
- 038 Wisconsin Log Homes Page 4-5, 71
- 039 Yellowstone Log Homes Page Inside Back Cover



900. FIREPLACES & HEARTHS

WoodWaiter
Page 65

901. FLOORING

- 006 Carlisle Wide Plank Floors Page 11

902. FURNISHINGS & DECOR

- 028 Papa Bear's Northwoods Store & Log Home Sales Page 67

903. KITCHEN & BATHS

- 030 Research Products-INCINOLET Page 53
- 035 Sunrise Specialty Page 27

904. WINDOWS & DOORS

- 036 Timber Valley Millwork Page 17
- 040 Yesteryear's Vintage Doors Page 12

905. STAINS/PRESERVATIVES

- 004 Blairstown Distributors Page 25
- 008 CTA Products Page 53
- 032 Schroeder Log Home Supply Inc. Page 12
- 018 WOODguard® Page 19



909. STAIRS & RAILINGS

- 017 The Iron Shop Page 9

910. LIGHTING

- 013 Lighthunting.com Page 21

911. BUILDING PRODUCTS

- 011 Eagle Panel Systems Inc. Page 50

912. ENERGY/HEATING/AIR

- 029 Radiant Floor Company Page 51

MISCELLANEOUS

- Log & Timber Home Bookstore Page 15
- Log & Timber Home Shows & Seminars Page 30-31
- Log Home Information Fairs Page 52
- LogHome.com Page 20
- LogHomeU.com Page 8

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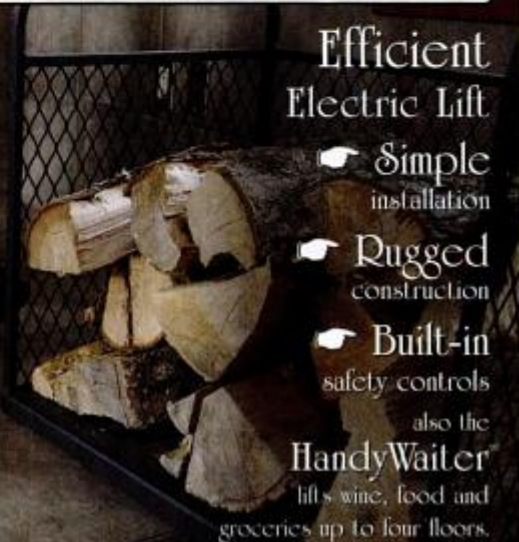
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Small Plan, Big Features

The Donegal, a three-bedroom, two-bath plan from Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, encloses 2,142 square feet of living space in a box-with-a-bump-out configuration, resulting in a modified L-shaped configuration that makes for an efficient use of space. The highlight is the roomy loft, which has a generous bonus area to the right of the stairs that overlooks the great room. To the left is the sequestered master bedroom suite, bisected by a double-door entry. Because it is on the upper level, it achieves a high, peaked ceiling that permits trusswork to add drama to the bedroom space. The bump-out on this level provides a sitting room off the bedroom with a stepped-down roof.

On the main level, the bump-out enlarges the dining area to balance the U-shaped kitchen at the other end. A formal entry works with the stairs to create a hallway that leads to two bedrooms beyond the kitchen and living room. These bedrooms share the main-level bathroom and a small laundry cupboard. The long living room features plenty of windows looking out at the equally long front porch. Clerestory windows above break up the log mass and let light into the upper level.

The bonus space, turned footprint and varied roofline combine with the many windows and additional log corners to create a pleasing exterior that visually enlarges the modest-sized home.

The following Focus on Floor Plans is a paid advertising section, and the package pricing information for the floor plans has been supplied by the respective companies. Feel free to work with producers to alter their plans, but copyright issues prevent "shopping around" specific plans or other companies' work. Floor plans shown are an artist's rendering. For actual floor plan, contact the company directly.



For more information about this plan, see page 75.



Regency

This spacious three-bedroom floor plan features room for entertaining in the living room and family room with a double sided fireplace and cathedral ceiling. The efficient kitchen has plenty of counter space and a breakfast nook with a separate dining room. Relax in the luxurious master bedroom with raised ensuite bath with whirlpool and walk-in closet. Two bedrooms on the second floor have a walkway that overlooks the living room and provides scenic views through the arched windows. Dealer inquiries invited.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 1/2

Square Footage: 2,342 sq. ft.

Package Price: Call for prices

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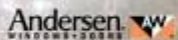


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Bellewood

The Bellewood's striking cathedral windows are just the beginning of its special features. This rambling three-bedroom home not only displays a large great room with a cathedral ceiling, but also offers a family room set apart from the rest of the home, making it a perfect getaway for the kids or to just kick back and enjoy the game.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 1/2

Square Footage: 3,215

Package Price: Call for prices

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First Floor



Second Floor

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Livingston

The warm and cozy Livingston model, with its gabled dormer, lets morning light flood onto the upstairs balcony. This two-story home offers three bedrooms, two full baths and a loft area that opens to a cathedral ceiling over the living room. The wraparound porch leads you to a large rear deck, and a bonus room is located off the downstairs hall.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 1/2

Square Footage: 2,032

Package Price: Call for prices

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First Level: 7,000 SQ FT

Second Level: 4,920 SQ FT

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The Lakefront

This is a great lake front home with a wall of windows and glass that will bring the outdoors into perfect view. A large great room with a timber frame cathedral ceiling is the focal point for those weekend gatherings. Three bedrooms provide plenty of space for friends and family to visit and enjoy the experience of log home living. Surrounded by porches and decks this home is great for a family cabin to be enjoyed anywhere.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2

Square Footage: 1,722

Package Price: Call for prices

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The Aspen II

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Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2

Square Footage: 2,592

Package Price: Call for prices

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DANIEL BOONE LOG HOMES

Tellico

This spacious home flows from the large kitchen through the dining room to the huge great room. The enormous great room with the balcony over-view is the perfect space for family gatherings. The Tellico is so relaxing you may not want to leave for work. The cozy master bedroom leads itself to your private dressing room and luxurious bathroom with separate tub and shower.

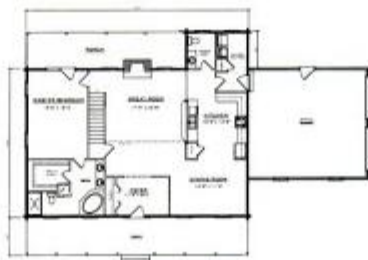
Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 3 1/2

Square Footage: 2,830

Package Price: Call for prices

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First Floor



Second Floor

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Hill View

The dramatic beauty of this 3,167 square foot home embraces nature while providing living space that is both comfortable and inspiring. Its open flow is perfect for family gatherings and walls of windows give the home a bright and airy feel.

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Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 full, 2 half

Square Footage: 3,167

Package Price: Call for prices

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First Floor



Second Floor





Yellow Birch

The Yellow Birch's plan is a favorite for everyday living. This plan's interesting roof detail gives this home the "curb appeal" so important to today's homebuyers. The Yellow Birch features a spacious great room, open kitchen/dining area and a master bedroom suite on the first floor. The covered porch is a wonderful place to relax and enjoy the views.

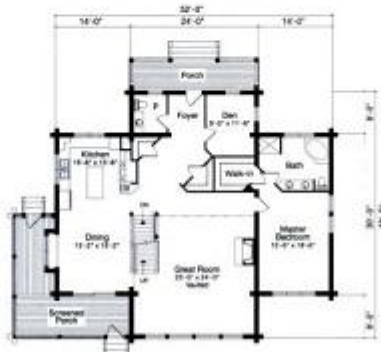
Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2 1/2

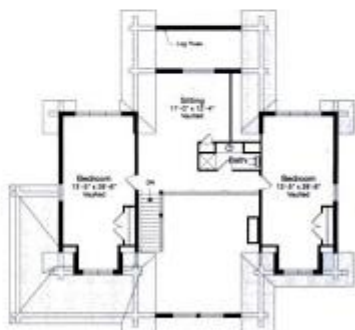
Square Footage: 3,175

Package Price: Call for prices

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First Floor



Second Floor

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The Black Fork

The perfect getaway for the weekend or vacation. The open-concept great room with extensive glass area affords an unobstructed view of the surrounding landscape and is further enhanced by the exposed timber ceiling and fireplace. The galley kitchen features a convenient raised counter and laundry area. Plus, by buying mill-direct, it's affordably priced.

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Bedrooms: 1

Baths: 1

Square Footage: 1,132

Deluxe Package Price: \$26,557

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First Floor



Second Floor



The Meadowbrook Cabin

It's all here. Great curb appeal, easy living floor plan, plenty of storage and spaces designed for specific functions. The master suite is opposite the guest bedrooms to provide privacy. The master bath has split vanities, a large shower as well as a spa tub. The small "pocket office" is ideal for keeping on top of your personal accounting and it is out of sight and out of mind when not in use. The laundry room also serves as a pantry. The rear living porch expands the entertaining and relaxing areas of the house. Add a fireplace to this porch and you now have an al fresco living room. At just over 1,800 square feet, this house will live larger than it is.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2

Square Footage: 1,816

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Peacock

It is easy to see that this plan has it all, with master suite privacy on the main level and a cozy guest room wing. The great room, with heavy timber Douglas fir beams, accents the main gathering room. It is perfect.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2

Square Footage: 1,768

Package Price: Call for prices

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The Belmont

Here is a handsome design that is both traditional and efficient. On the ground floor of The Belmont, a cathedral ceiling adds to the open sense of the living room. The upstairs features a spacious master bedroom and a loft overlooking the living area.

Bedrooms: 3

Baths: 2

Square Footage: 1,434

Package Price: Call for prices

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Baths: 3 1/2

Square Footage: 2,588

Package Price: Call for pricing in your area

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First Floor



Basement

resources

40 Years in the Making

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Lighting: Caravelle Lighting (815-678-4558, caravellelite.com)

Casement windows: Eagle Window & Door
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Kitchen cabinets and hutch: Schuler's Country Furniture and Jewelers (608-756-1644, schulercountry.com)

Note: Builder Steve Fox died shortly after completing the home.



54

They Did It Their Way

Pages 40-47

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Their Own Private Idaho

Page 54-63

Log provider: Caribou Creek Log Homes
(800-619-1156, caribou-creek.com)

Builder: Campbell & Campbell
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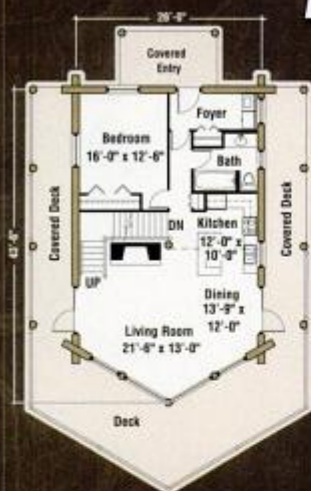


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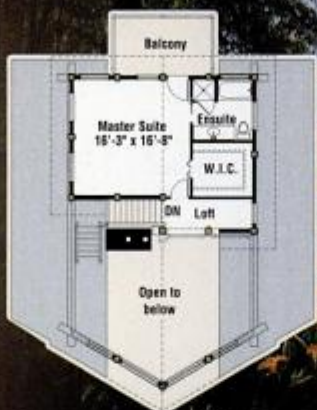
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Main Floor Plan
1034 Sq. Ft.



Upper Floor Plan
500 Sq. Ft.



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THE Astoria

1,313 SQ. FT.



Compact and cozy, yet with an amazing feeling of space and light inside, the Astoria would fit on a narrow lot or as a guest house. The style is a fresh, modern post and beam composition with extensive upper decks and an exterior spiral stair.



Main Floor Plan
841 Sq. Ft.



Upper Floor Plan
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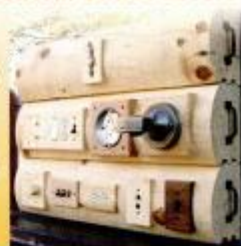
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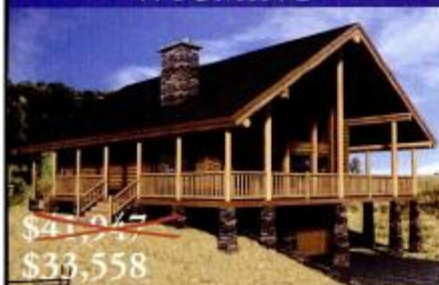
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Save 20% off the regular priced log package on any of our 37 stock plans. Contact your nearest Yellowstone Log Homes dealer in order to take full advantage of this special offer. To view all 37 plans, simply purchase our plan book by phone or online. Confirmed orders must be received by March 16, 2010 in order to qualify. The package must ship by June 11, 2010.

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The prices quoted include 8" Swedish cope Cabin Appearance wall logs. The package includes these items (if applicable): blueprints for the stock plan (not engineered), TPI certified grade stamped wall logs, log home screws, exterior log home stain, foam gasket for between the courses of logs, caulking for the interior and exterior of the home, log roof beams, log support posts, log porch posts and headers, log loft floor joists, a log stair set, log railing, 1x6 and 2x6 T&G for ceilings and loft decking. This offer is only available in certain diameters of Swedish cope wall logs. Only non-modified stock plans from our Log Home Planning Guide qualify for this offer. Prices and promotions are subject to change without notice.

www.yellowstoneloghomes.com

LOG HOME TOUR & LOG RAISING SEMINAR

Yellowstone Log Homes is excited to announce and invite you to attend two days of log home fun and learning that you won't want to miss!

June 11-12, 2010

Day 1 will be filled with a log raising, a mill tour, seminars on log home maintenance, and a tour of several local log homes. We will start building a log structure. Watch the logs go up from main floor to roof line. Learn valuable how-tos from Master Logsmiths. Get to know us at a luncheon to be held this same day.

Day 2 will be comprised of finishing the log raising, and a grand log home tour. The tour will feature approximately 8 Yellowstone Log Homes in and around the area, including several homes near Yellowstone National Park. Witness first hand many designs that will inspire and delight.

Mark your calendar now and make arrangements to join us. Ticket prices are \$50 per person and include the above day's activities, bus transportation for the tour, and lunch for both days. Register early because space is limited.



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